

CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY JULY 29, 2024

A. MANILA BULLETIN

Building Mindanao's agro-industrial base matters to country's growth

B. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Flood of corruption?

Right words, right actions

A: Vegetable, egg prices to go up

Bird flu outbreak reported in Tarlac

US allows 145,235 MT raw sugar export quota for Philippines

Philippines dislodged as 2nd biggest banana exporter

Under proposed 2025 budget: Education, transport get increase; health, agriculture allotment down

C. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

PH can finally export raw sugar to US

D. BUSINESS WORLD:

PHL banana exports up 3.4% amid efforts to curb disease

KADIWA store network to tap more suppliers

Greenhouses for high-value crops to be built via tie-up with SKorea

PHL to resume sugar exports to US

Habi announces fair dates, *piña* and *abaca* weaving contests

E. MANILA STANDARD:

Marcos' vision for affordable rice

Sad scenario: Reefs in decline

F. THE MANILA TIMES:

Marcos urged to focus on agriculture

Marcos inaugurates P940-M reservoir in Ilocos Norte

P29 rice program to expand to Region 6

DA: Rice prices could fall below P50/kilo in August

G. PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:

EDITORIAL - Dagsa ang imported na bigas at manok

MANILA BULLETIN:

Building Mindanao's agro-industrial base matters to country's growth

BY [JOHN TRIA](#)

Jul 29, 2024 00:11 AM

#MINDANAO



It is often said that the future of the Philippine economy will be influenced by Mindanao's growth. Having reviewed several regional economies of Mindanao over the last few months, I believe that the growth of Mindanao's regional economies, particularly manufacturing and processing, or the agro-industrial base, will be good for the growth of the rest of the nation. Let me examine some reasons why this is the case.

The first reason for this is that Mindanao's agriculture, fisheries, and forestry (AFF) sectors are a significant part of each regional economy. CARAGA's forestry resources, Northern Mindanao, and the Davao region's pineapple, banana, and coconut farms truly deliver on exports. In addition, all Mindanao regions have great potential for the blue economy in fisheries and marine culture. These make Mindanao the country's food basket.

Because of these potentials, growing Mindanao's AFF sectors further will mean more food for the rest of the country, helping the entire economy manage inflation, a big part of which is due to high food prices. A related benefit of a broader AFF sector is that it creates more employment in more remote provinces. This broadens the income base and creates local wealth. In effect, this new opportunity can lessen the need for residents to seek opportunities in our major urban centers. This makes the growth spread and become more inclusive.

Moreover, agro-processing can create higher scales of production that can lower costs. This enables consolidation by agribusiness corporations or cooperatives that can invest in post-harvest processing, product development, and consolidated buying. This makes products more competitive in a wider array of markets so that we can compete with imports. As a case in point, while there are challenges faced by the coconut production and processing sector, our coconut producers still hold the greatest potential since there are agro-industrial players among

them producing a variety of products such as desiccated coconut, oil, coconut water, and canned coconut milk producing many products from the harvested coconuts.

One of the keys to harnessing AFF potential is to increase the volume and value of its production. This means encouraging investment in enterprises such as farms so that they can plant and harvest more in the long term. The corollary to this is encouraging agro-processing investments that can buy the farm produce, particularly the secondary grade production from the farms. This can encourage farmers to plant more since there are additional markets to buy their crops. This is the case for coffee and cacao. Not all the beans can be bought by the limited set of buyers who will select only the best grades. When farms can get good buyers for second-grade produce, there is an encouragement to plant more and earn more through longer-term contracting. This, in turn, can reduce the risk of investing in more production.

Of course, there are reasons why the AFF sectors of some Mindanao regions are growing faster than others. There are also challenges faced by different commodity production supply and value chains. Some are more successful than others in producing more and at better costs. Therefore, a deeper analysis of these will be needed especially with variables such as the threats posed by climate-related risks, logistics costs, market access, and shifting market preferences- and how all of these can affect agricultural productivity and the viability of investments. These analyses can be done through Mindanao's various academic and research institutions in collaboration with bodies such as the Philippine Institute for Development Studies. We look forward to more collaboration toward this.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/29/building-mindanao-s-agro-industrial-base-matters-to-country-s-growth>

Flood of corruption?



DEMAND AND SUPPLY - Boo Chanco - The Philippine Star

July 29, 2024 | 12:00am

At the height of the torrential downpour last Wednesday afternoon, I went to the fourth level of the parking building of our condo to take a look at how the Marikina River was doing. It was flowing faster than usual and the water level overflowed ankle deep along the walkway on our side of the riverbank. And the usual dark color of the river's water is now brown, indicating serious erosion of topsoil upriver.

There were runaway barges in danger of damaging bridges. The barges are used to carry the garbage being removed during dredging operations to clean and deepen the river. During the summer months, the river stinks. Apparently, there is just too much filth to clean to make a real difference.

On C-5 in front of the condo, there was the usual street flooding that somehow has avoided a solution through the years. That is obviously a dirty or clogged drainage problem, something MMDA is supposed to be responsible for. But what can honestly be expected from the MMDA?

I called a former DPWH secretary whom I knew to be one of the more productive ones. He told me that his first experience with flooding brought him out to inspect pumping stations and see for himself what the problem was. He said to his surprise, one pumping station had very little water. So, he investigated and found that the esteros as well as the drainage pipes feeding it were clogged with garbage.

That's nothing new to many of us. I remember Geny Lopez visiting one such pumping station when the Lopezes were running Maynilad. He was so surprised to see a refrigerator and a bed mattress among other pretty large chunks of garbage

floating toward the pumping station. The ex-DPWH secretary said he saw the same sort of things too.

I asked him why we are still having floods despite the hundreds of billions of pesos we have spent and continue to spend to control flooding. He said flood infrastructure is just one thing. The more important thing is cleaning the esteros and maintaining the flood-control infrastructure. He did that for the rest of his time at DPWH and things improved but the annual loss of work days seems unavoidable.

He cautioned that cleaning the outlets and esteros will not prevent flooding but it will make the flood water flow faster to Manila Bay. Also, existing outflows may no longer be sufficient to convey the bigger volume of rain water due to climate change.

So, here we are, continuing to throw ever bigger money at the flooding problem. Sen. Francis Escudero last year scrutinized the DPWH's P255-billion flood control budget. Escudero noted that the DPWH's flood control budget is far bigger than the capital outlay budget of the Department of Agriculture at P40.13 billion and of the Department of Health at P24.57 billion.

“Flood control even beat our railway budget by over a P100 billion. Railway budget is only P153 billion and irrigation at P31 billion,” Escudero said.

The senator said DPWH's P255-billion flood control budget even eclipsed proposed budgets of entire departments – P232.2 billion for the Department of National Defense, P209.9 billion for the Department of Social Welfare and Development, P181.4 billion for the Department of Agriculture and its attached agencies, among others. The DPWH has a proposed 2024 budget of P822.2 billion.

“If we are spending more for draining water and dredging rivers than for planting food, then what is the justification for this?” Escudero asked.

Senate majority leader Joel Villanueva said that the DPWH has a “daily budget for flood management” of P1.079 billion in 2023.

“I don't think any one of the 200,000 families submerged in waters would say they benefited from the P1.079-billion budget. Are we really implementing this? P1.079 billion every single day? What the heck is going on?” Villanueva said during the August 9, 2023 Senate hearing.

Could it be that the flood-control budget is the biggest racket in Congress? Could they be chopping that up into pork barrel funding which is why we see little or no positive effects from such a gargantuan budget? There are rumors that the kickback in pork projects of this type now exceeds 50 percent.

At this rate, Pinoys will just have to be resilient, meaning be resigned to suffering this problem yearly because they keep on voting crocodiles into office.

Remember Provident Village in Marikina? I was told by a former Marikina top official that the problem last week was the same as in the past. But this time, the residents were prepared. They have taken steps like building additional floors to their houses. Some moved out at the first sign of trouble from the dark clouds of habagat.

Still, the former official said they did very badly. Yet politicians are claiming that the dredging they did allowed for a lower level of flooding despite the Ondoy level of rainfall. The reality is that the flood-control projects are not yet complete. They have chopped up the dike projects to different contractors but progress is as slow as the payments.

There was this video on Facebook and X showing different types of aircraft parked in the flooded NAIA tarmac. I would guess this is also a serious drainage problem because the Parañaque River is also filled with garbage and the proposed Parañaque spillway is still a proposal. The new NAIA management will have to address NAIA's flooding when they take over. I am sure San Miguel is now planning how to solve it. After they dredged the Tullahan River, their Polo Brewery no longer flooded.

What hit us last week was the effect of a flood of corruption and incompetence in carrying out our flood-control projects. Looks like the bank accounts of some politicians are also being flooded with our money.

Boo Chanco's email address is bchanco@gmail.com. Follow him on X [@boochanco](https://twitter.com/boochanco).

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/07/29/2373643/flood-corruption>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Right words, right actions



[GO NEGOSYO PILIPINAS ANGAT LAHAT!](#) - [Joey Concepcion](#) - The

Philippine Star

July 29, 2024 | 12:00am

When the President dropped the bombshell on banning POGOs at the tail end of his State of the Nation Address last week, he quickly directed follow-through actions for government agencies to ensure its effective implementation.

Among the top concerns was the displacement of an estimated 40,000 Filipino workers said to be directly or indirectly employed by the POGOs. This is in addition to the cessation of economic activities that may have trickled down to the local economy through rentals or consumer spending from those who earned money from the POGOs. A few weeks back, there was a similar concern about land ownership; that small farmers might be giving up their land and unknowingly selling to unscrupulous groups.

I look at these concerns and think of how urgently we need to make our country and countrymen resilient to these forces. Thinking back to how we, during the Covid pandemic, rushed to vaccinate the population against the virus, I think it is also high time that we inoculate ourselves against the viruses that threaten our country's economy.

The President said during the SONA that the benefits of economic development must be inclusive. That “whatever current data proudly banner our country as among the best-performing in Asia means nothing to a Filipino, who is confronted by the price of rice at P45 to P65 per kilo.”

Nothing can be clearer. Positive economic indicators make a difference when they translate to tangible improvements in the daily lives of Filipinos. A robust economy

makes our country more resistant to the ills of criminal syndicates masquerading as legitimate businesses. It strengthens our countrymen from resorting to desperate measures such as selling their land or taking on jobs that might lead to them being trafficked by criminals.

The President outlined several transformative reforms and priorities that I believe will help drive this inclusive progress. Chief among them is the focus on agriculture and food security. Easing farmers' access to markets and condoning their loans will pave the way for the crucial steps toward greater economies of scale that our own KALAP initiative at Go Negosyo has been championing.

We've even expanded this approach to the ASEAN level through the ASEAN Food Security Alliance, bringing a whole-of-region perspective to making food more affordable for Filipinos, especially now that we're starting to freely trade with one another in the ASEAN.

By breaking down the barriers that have traditionally hindered the growth of small farmers, we can empower these hardworking Filipinos to become more productive and profitable. In a nutshell, successful farmers don't sell their land.

The multiplier effect of having successful farmers cascades even to those outside the agriculture sector. Food security is not just about production – it's also about ensuring affordability and accessibility for all Filipinos. That's why I'm particularly encouraged by the President's emphasis on this issue. Rising food prices have put a tremendous strain on household budgets, particularly for those living on the margins. By supporting our farmers and streamlining the supply chain, we can help make fresh and affordable food within the reach of every Filipino family.

However, the President's vision for inclusive growth extends far beyond agriculture. He also rightly emphasized the importance of implementing ease of doing business, physical and digital infrastructure projects and boosting the productivity of the tourism sector. These priorities directly address the key pillars outlined in the latest MSME Development Plan – digitalization, innovation and sustainability. As the lifeblood of our economy, MSMEs stand to greatly benefit from these forward-looking policies. And again, a strong base of hundreds of thousands of thriving entrepreneurs makes for a stronger, more resilient economy.

Small and medium enterprises are the backbone of the Philippine economy because they make up the vast majority of businesses and employ more than half of all Filipinos. Yet they have long struggled with intimidating red tape, limited access to capital and technology and a lack of critical support systems. The President's focus on easing the bureaucratic burden and investing in both physical and digital infrastructure will go a long way in unlocking the full potential of this dynamic sector. We only need to see how social media and e-wallets created instant entrepreneurs during the pandemic.

The President is also giving recognition to the vital role tourism plays in supporting countless MSMEs across the country. From hotels and restaurants to handicraft makers and tour operators, the tourism value chain is teeming with entrepreneurial Filipinos scattered in the remotest villages of the country: selling handicrafts, supplying to hotels, ferrying tourists and many more odd businesses that sprout because of tourism.

Furthermore, the President's call to upskill our workforce is spot on. Equipping Filipinos with the skills for high-quality, well-paying jobs will help them weather the challenge of food inflation and other economic pressures. As the lead for the Jobs Cluster of the Private Sector Advisory Council, I can attest that the private sector is fully committed to reskilling and upskilling job seekers, with mentorship from established companies and the tools for quality jobs and small business growth. More than altruism, helping create a highly skilled workforce makes for better business.

It's truly heartening to see the President and the First Lady so supportive of these private sector initiatives, such as how they welcomed Go Negosyo into the LAB for All program. This broadened the reach of our mentoring, allowing us to talk to more people in more parts of the country. The Department of Education is also instrumental in enabling us to talk to young people and better prepare them for life after school through alternative pathways like entrepreneurship or agripreneurship.

Sustainable, inclusive growth can only be achieved through a collaborative, whole-of-society approach. Economic prosperity won't happen overnight, and the government can't do it alone. But with the government and private sector working together under the President's leadership, I am confident that we will be able to help more Filipinos realize a brighter future. I am glad that I can be part of this transformative journey.

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2024/07/29/2373665/right-words-right-actions>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA: Vegetable, egg prices to go up

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

July 29, 2024 | 12:00am



Market vendor in marikina wet and dry market said prices of eggs in the market is possible to increase due to feeds hike.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — Vegetable and egg prices are expected to go up amid the devastation caused by Typhoon Carina and monsoon rains, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

As of Saturday night, damage to the agriculture sector had reached P612 million, said DA Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa.

Of the amount, P507 million in damage was recorded in the rice sector; P58 million, corn production; P46 million, high-value crops and P411,000, livestock and poultry.

“Lowland vegetables are affected, especially those used to cook pinakbet, as many areas were flooded, but there are areas we can tap as an alternative source of supply,” De Mesa said yesterday.

Egg producers yesterday said that a steady increase in the retail price of eggs is expected.

“There was no reported big damage in farm facilities, but retailers and traders were affected as eggs in warehouses in Quezon City and Manila were damaged by the flooding,” Philippine Egg Board Association president Francis Uyehara said.

“The increase (in egg prices) is not that big, but I am not sure what will happen toward December or the holiday season,” he noted.

As for rice, De Mesa said there is no reason for rice prices to go up as it is covered by the price freeze following the declaration of a state of calamity in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

“(The price freeze) covers basic commodities, including rice in areas under a state of calamity,” he said.

Central Luzon was the hardest-hit region in terms of agricultural damage at P350 million, he said.

“The damage was big in Pampanga with P228 million, followed by Tarlac, P100 million; and then Region 6, P25 million; Mimaropa, P22 million; Region 12, P65 million. Also affected were Caraga, Zamboanga, Eastern Visayas and Bicol region,” he said.

Despite the damage, De Mesa said it would not affect overall palay production as crops were still in the vegetative stage.

“As of now, the volume loss for palay is 8,000 metric tons, affecting about 26,000 hectares. This is still within the limit of our losses as we expect 500,000 to 600,000 year-on-year. We are still expecting La Niña and we are hoping it will no longer increase,” he said.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/07/29/2373683/da-vegetable-egg-prices-go-up>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Bird flu outbreak reported in Tarlac

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

July 29, 2024 | 12:00am



File photo ng mga manok sa isang poultry farm.

AFP File

MANILA, Philippines — Chickens at a commercial farm in Tarlac tested positive for bird flu, the Philippine Egg Board Association (PEBA) reported yesterday.

The farm had sold chickens to traders before discovering the bird flu outbreak, PEBA president Francis Uyehara said.

“The chickens were being transported when they died. Upon examination, the chickens tested positive for bird flu,” he noted.

PEBA urged the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration to hasten the approval of the bird flu vaccine.

“We are considering that there are other farms that do not report or test their chicken for bird flu,” Uyehara said.

“This is the reason why we don’t have a clear reference on the extent of the bird flu problem,” he added.

Commercialization of the vaccine is being discussed as field trials are ongoing, he noted.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/07/29/2373690/bird-flu-outbreak-reported-tarlac>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

US allows 145,235 MT raw sugar export quota for Philippines

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

July 29, 2024 | 12:00am



The Philippines secured the third largest allocation from the USTR for fiscal year 2025, which runs from Oct. 1 until Sept. 30, 2025, behind Dominican Republic (189,343 MTRV) and Brazil (155,993 MTRV).

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has been allowed to export 145,235 metric tons raw value (MTRV) of raw cane sugar at lower tariff rate to the United States for the second straight fiscal year, the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) said.

The Philippines secured the third largest allocation from the USTR for fiscal year 2025, which runs from Oct. 1 until Sept. 30, 2025, behind Dominican Republic (189,343 MTRV) and Brazil (155,993 MTRV).

ADVERTISING

This is the second straight fiscal year that the country was given a 145,235 MT raw sugar export quota (TRQ) by the US under its tariff rate quota system.

The TRQ system allows certain countries to export specific quantities of a product to the US at a relatively low tariff.

The Philippines earlier opted not to serve the initial quota allocation in the current fiscal year 2024 due to concerns on domestic sugarcane production.

But the government sought a reallocation from the US in November last year to flush out some of the country's raw sugar stocks to lift farm-gate prices of sugarcane and maintain a profitable margin for planters.

The US granted the Philippines' request and gave it a reallocated quota of 25,300 MTRV raw sugar. The government plans to fulfill the reallocated quota in the coming weeks before the current fiscal year ends on Sept. 30.

The Philippines has not exported a single volume of raw sugar to the US in the past two crop years (2021-2022 and 2022-2023) due to domestic output shortfall.

The US has been the longest trade partner of the Philippines when it comes to sugar, dating back to 1796. It has been the country's priority market when it comes to raw sugar exports.

In a related development, the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) board issued Sugar Order (SO) 3 that approved the export of 25,300 MTRV of raw sugar to the US under its TRQ system.

The SO was signed by Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., who chairs the SRA board, SRA Administrator and CEO Pablo Luis Azcona, board members David Sanson and Mitzi Mangwag as well as Agriculture Undersecretary Roger Navarro as alternate ex-officio chairman.

The SO would take effect three days after it was filed with the Office of the National Registrar at UP Law Center last July 26.

The STAR broke the story earlier that the government was fast-tracking the export of raw sugar to the US to raise farm-gate prices of domestic raw sugar by siphoning off some of the country's supply amid a drop in market demand.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/07/29/2373641/us-allows-145235-mt-raw-sugar-export-quota-philippines>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Philippines dislodged as 2nd biggest banana exporter

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

July 29, 2024 | 12:00am



Not anymore, as it was overtaken by Guatemala last year, according to the official tally of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — Is the Philippines still the second largest biggest exporter of bananas in the world?

Not anymore, as it was overtaken by Guatemala last year, according to the official tally of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The Philippines lost its six-year status as the second biggest exporter of bananas despite reversing its sagging trend in shipments in 2023.

The FAO said Guatemala shipped 2.6 million metric tons of bananas last year, about 300,000 MT more than the 2.3 million MT exported by the Philippines.

Ecuador remained as the world's top banana exporter with 6.2 million MT of total volume last year.

The last time that the Philippines was the third biggest banana exporter in the world was in 2016 when the local industry reeled from drought and spread of pests.

FAO said the country's banana exports last year were unable to keep up with global market demand due to a shortfall in domestic output caused by the devastating spread of fusarium wilt tropical race (TR4), a serious banana disease.

Local banana growers also suffered financial strains because of the "substantial" costs they incurred to prevent the spread of TR4.

"Over the past decade, the country's banana production has been impacted by adverse growing conditions related to various factors, including the spread of TR4, occasional flooding and occurrences of political unrest," the international agency said in its global banana market review published recently.

Philippine banana shipments last year rose by 3.4 percent year-on-year to 2.3 million MT, driven by higher shipments to Iran and Saudi Arabia, halting three consecutive years of decline from 2020 to 2022.

Nonetheless, the country remained as the top banana exporter from Asia, accounting for more than half of the region's 4.1 million MT shipment last year, according to the FAO.

On the other hand, Guatemala's banana industry situation was a stark contrast to the Philippines as the Latin American country saw its exports growing by 17.5 percent year-on-year on the back of favorable production conditions and stronger farm investments.

The FAO noted that Guatemalan bananas remained among the cheapest bananas in the world, with an average export unit of \$382 per MT last year.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/07/29/2373651/philippines-dislodged-2nd-biggest-banana-exporter>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Under proposed 2025 budget: Education, transport get increase; health, agriculture allotment down

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) - The Philippine Star

July 29, 2024 | 12:00am



The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) will submit at 10 a.m. today the proposed P6.352-trillion 2025 budget to the House of Representatives as the Marcos administration moves to finance its priority programs and achieve its macroeconomic targets.

Businessworld / File

MANILA, Philippines — The education and transportation sectors are proposed to have higher budgets next year but the health and agriculture sectors may get lower allocation under the record P6.352 trillion National Expenditure Program (NEP) for 2025.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) will submit at 10 a.m. today the proposed P6.352-trillion 2025 budget to the House of Representatives as the Marcos administration moves to finance its priority programs and achieve its macroeconomic targets.

Based on the briefer on the 2025 NEP obtained by The STAR, the education sector will get the biggest chunk at P977.6 billion, up by a percentage from the P968.9 billion under the 2024 General Appropriations Act.

The sector includes the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority and state universities and colleges.

The Department of Public Works and Highways is proposed to have the second highest allocation at P900 billion but this is a 10 percent reduction from the agency's P997.9 billion budget for 2024.

Similarly, the Department of Health, including the Philippine Health Insurance Corp., may get a 3.5 percent reduction at P297.6 billion from this year's P308.3 billion.

The DBM earlier said the lower budget proposal has to do with the reduced allowances for healthcare workers and other healthcare needs as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government is seen getting a 5.9 percent boost in its 2025 budget at P278.4 billion from P263 billion allocation this year.

Likewise, the Department of National Defense is proposed to get P256.1 billion, up by 6.4 percent from P240.6 billion in the 2024 GAA.

On the other hand, data showed that the Department of Social Welfare and Development may get a 7.2 percent cut to P230.1 billion from P248.1 billion.

The combined budget proposal of the Department of Agriculture, its attached corporations as well as the Department of Agrarian Reform has been slashed by 4.7 percent to P211.3 billion versus this year's GAA of P221.7 billion.

Notably, the Department of Transportation is proposed to more than double its allocation next year to P180.9 billion from its 2024 GAA of just P73.9 billion.

Completing the top 10 priority sectors are the Judiciary with P63.6 billion and the Department of Justice with P40.6 billion, both up from this year's GAA.

According to the DBM, next year's NEP was crafted to meet the objectives of the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 and support the administration's goal of economic and social transformation.

“This budget builds on the gains of the first two years of the administration, sustaining momentum in pursuit of a prosperous, inclusive and resilient Philippines—where all Filipinos can fulfill their individual and shared aspirations,” the DBM said.

The record budget level proposed for next year is 10.1 percent above this year’s allocation of P5.768 trillion.

Next year’s budget is equivalent to 22 percent of the economy.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/07/29/2373637/under-proposed-2025-budget-education-transport-get-increase-health-agriculture-allotment-down>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

PH can finally export raw sugar to US

By: [Lisbet K. Esmael](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 02:07 AM July 29, 2024



INQUIRER.net stock images

Four years after its last shipment, the Philippines will finally be able to export 25,300 metric tons (MT) of raw sugar to the United States this year, according to regulators.

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) issued Sugar Order No. 3 last Friday, July 26, giving local producers the go-signal to fulfill Washington's sugar allotment for the Philippines covering the fiscal year 2024.

The order was signed by Agriculture Secretary Franciso Tiu Laurel, Jr., Agriculture Undersecretary Roger Navarro, SRA Administrator and CEO Pablo Luis Azcona, millers' representative Ma. Mitizi Mangwag and planters' representative David Andrew Sanson.

To recall, the SRA made an order in 2021 allocating the entire local sugar production to the local market after a series of storms affected sugarcane-producing provinces, including Negros Occidental and Batangas.

The SRA noted current total production of locally produced sugar has surpassed 1.92 million MT, way higher than the 120,000 MT recorded in the previous crop year.

“[This allows] the Philippines to fulfill its US quota allocation of 25,300 MT ... This shall be the first export of sugar in fulfillment of the US sugar allocation for the year 2024 in order to participate in future import program,” it said in the order.

The regulator said qualified industry players have renewed their intention to meet the export volume “despite the lower return ... and the additional cost and uncertainty inherent to the exportation [of] sugar.” According to the SRA, potential participants must remain licensed international sugar traders in “good standing.”

Plug supply gap

Also on Friday, Washington gave the Philippines the thumbs up to export more raw sugar at lower tariff rates.

According to a statement from the Office of the US Trade Representative, the Philippines would be able to deliver an additional 145,235 MT raw value (MTRV) of raw cane sugar for fiscal year 2025, covering Oct. 1 of this year to Sept. 30, 2025.

The country’s allocation is part of the US commitment under the World Trade Organization Agreement, which entails a minimum of 1,117,195 MTRV reserved by the latter for sugar-exporting nations.

For refined sugar, the government was targeting to import 200,000 MT by the second half of 2024 to stabilize prices and boost local supply. The Philippines imports refined sugar because of the lack of or limited processing capabilities.

“That is the deficit we are seeing. We expect current stocks to decline by August or September, so we need to plug the supply gap by importing 200,000 MT of refined sugar by September or October,” Tiu Laurel said in June. INQ

<https://business.inquirer.net/471898/ph-can-finally-export-raw-sugar-to-us>

BUSINESS WORLD:

PHL banana exports up 3.4% amid efforts to curb disease

July 29, 2024 | 12:03 am



REUTERS

EXPORTS of banana from the Philippines rose 3.4% in 2023, with the industry's efforts to curtail the outbreak of Fusarium wilt, also known as Panama disease, apparently paying off, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said.

In its Banana Market Review, the FAO said that exports of Philippine bananas increased to 2.3 million metric tons (MMT) due to increased investment in containing Panama disease and the rehabilitation of about 4,000 hectares of infected plantations.

Fusarium wilt is a soil-borne fungal disease that blocks the banana plant's vascular system and deprives it of minerals, nutrients, and moisture. Affected plants turn yellow and die.

The Tropical Race 4 (TR4) strain was first detected in Davao City in 2009 and continues to threaten the Cavendish banana, the main export variety.

“Over the past decade, the country's banana production has been impacted by adverse growing conditions related to various factors, including the spread of TR4, occasional flooding and occurrences of political unrest,” the FAO said.

Citing the Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association, it added that about 17,000 to 18,000 hectares of banana plantations are affected by TR4, as of February.

The FAO said emerging banana destinations for Philippine bananas like Iran and Saudi Arabia have expanded by 60% and 12% by volume, respectively.

The Philippines is the second top banana exporter next to Ecuador. It accounts for around 60% of Asian banana shipments.

The FAO said logistics issues affected the quality of bananas expected to be exported to Japan.

“These difficulties hampered shipments from the Philippines particularly during the first nine months of (2023), notably to Japan and China, the two key destinations for bananas from the Philippines,” it added.

It added that Asian exports in 2023 rose 5.9% to 4.1 MMT, showing the “first signs of recovery” following three years of consecutive declines in shipments from the region.

The FAO said that exports from Asia had been affected by COVID-19 related difficulties and the impact of TR4 from 2020 to 2022. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/agribusiness/2024/07/29/610635/phl-banana-exports-up-3-4-amid-efforts-to-curb-disease/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

KADIWA store network to tap more suppliers

July 29, 2024 | 12:02 am



OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY PHOTO

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said it is seeking out more farmer cooperatives and food manufacturers to supply its KADIWA centers.

“Aside from helping consumers, farmer cooperatives will have a rent-free venue to sell their produce while food manufacturers can do this as their corporate social responsibility project,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said in a statement.

The department said the ‘KADIWA sa BayanAnihan’ program makes available lower-priced basic goods by allowing suppliers to sell directly to the public, bypassing middlemen.

The goods being sought for sale at KADIWA stores include vegetables, eggs, chicken, pork, fish, sugar, spices, canned goods, cooking oil, soy sauce, vinegar and noodles at wholesale prices.

Mr. Laurel said proceeds from KADIWA will help finance the DA’s subsidized rice program for the poor and vulnerable.

“Whatever funds KADIWA centers and the Food Terminal, Inc. make from this ‘Kabayani’ initiative will be utilized to help sustain the P29 rice program,” he added, referring to the intended selling price under the subsidized program.

The target market is estimated at about 34 million vulnerable individuals, including persons with disabilities, solo parents, and senior citizens, as well as those below the poverty line.

The DA has started a large-scale trial of the program to gather data on demand, supply, and logistics, with the trial expected to run for another year.

During the first two weeks of implementation, the subsidized-rice program sold 12.7 metric tons of cheap rice to about 25,000 households.

The KADIWA centers will seek to sell rice at between P45 and P48 per kilo to the general public.

Mr. Laurel has disclosed plans to expand the KADIWA network to 1,500 locations in the next three years.
— **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/agribusiness/2024/07/29/610634/kadiwa-store-network-to-tap-more-suppliers/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Greenhouses for high-value crops to be built via tie-up with SKorea

July 29, 2024 | 12:01 am



REUTERS

THE Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) said that it is planning to expand its greenhouse network for high-value crops through a tie-up with the Korea Partnership for Innovation of Agriculture (KOPIA).

“We are trying to expand it further in terms of numbers and in areas covered, hopefully in areas where there are BPI centers,” BPI Director Gerald Glenn F. Panganiban said on the sidelines of a KOPIA event last week.

He added that the BPI was evaluating potential sites in Baguio, Davao, Guimaras, Los Baños, Laguna and La Granja, Negros Occidental, with building to start next year or in 2026.

KOPIA Philippine Center has two pilot greenhouse projects in Laguna, Quezon province, and Nueva Ecija.

Lee Kyu-seong, director of KOPIA Philippine Center, said that it is planning to scale up its pilot projects starting in 2026.

“(We) are also trying to find other projects (like) transferring our technology to communities here in the Philippines.

KOPIA and the BPI have agreed to expand the pilot project to about 10 sites near BPI centers.

“The vision is to have shared facilities that could be used by farmers, similar to what we did with KOPIA,” Mr. Panganiban added.

He said that the BPI will also partnering with private parties to take up the products produced in the greenhouses.

Separately, Agriculture Undersecretary Jerome V. Oliveros said that KOPIA’s pilot farms have reported superior yields compared with open farming methods.

“The yields are very high, more than about 30% compared to normal methods,” Mr. Oliveros added.

KOPIA is an official development assistance program of the Rural Development Administration, which is South Korea’s largest agricultural research and development organization. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/agribusiness/2024/07/29/610633/greenhouses-for-high-value-crops-to-be-built-via-tie-up-with-skorea/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

PHL to resume sugar exports to US

July 29, 2024 | 12:34 am



The Philippines will resume exporting raw sugar to the United States this year. — REUTERS

By **Adrian H. Halili**, *Reporter*

THE PHILIPPINES will resume exports of raw sugar to the United States amid an increase in domestic production this year, the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) said in an order.

In Sugar Order No. 3 dated July 26, the SRA said the Philippines will ship 25,300 metric tons (MT) of raw sugar to the United States to fulfill the sugar quota allocation for 2024.

“The intention of this voluntary US export of 25,300 MT of locally produced raw sugar is to allow the Philippines to fulfill, after noncompliance of more than three years, its obligations under the significantly reduced US Raw Sugar Tariff-Rate Quota World Trade Allocation,” the SRA said in the order.

The Philippines last shipped raw sugar, totaling 112,008 MT, to the US during the 2020-2021 crop year. Since then, the country has not exported raw sugar to the US due to domestic supply concerns.

Last May, the US had granted the Philippines’ request for a reallocation of the quota for crop year 2023-2024, with a volume of 25,300 MT.

“The current total production of locally produced sugar for crop year 2023-2024 has exceeded 1,920,000 MT, thereby exceeding the previous crop year’s total production by more than 120,000 MT, and likewise allowing the Philippines to fulfill its US quota allocation of 25,300 MT,” the SRA said.

The country exports raw sugar to the US to stabilize prices during times of overproduction in local sugar mills.

According to the SRA, the eligible participants in the export program are those who have purchased raw sugar from local farmers at a premium price to stabilize millgate prices.

SRA Administrator Pablo Luis S. Azcona had said that the regulator would allow the export of raw cane sugar to the US by August. The Philippines has until Sept. 30 to fulfill its quota during the current crop year.

Asked to comment, United Sugar Producers Federation of the Philippines President Manuel R. Lamata said that the export would help stabilize the millgate prices of sugar.

“This sugar, if exported in the months of December to January, will decongest our local sugar stocks thereby maintaining a stable price for our millgate sugar,” he said in a Viber message.

He noted that millgate prices have dropped due to the excess supply of sugar.

During the current crop year raw sugar stocks rose by 35.5% year on year to 374,474 MT as of July 7.

“What is important for us planters are stable millgate prices from start to finish. Thereby managing stock to ensure high prices all season round is important,” Mr. Lamata said.

Mr. Lamata added that stocks would be replenished with the approval of the importation of refined sugar during the off-milling season.

“We are going to import refined sugar during the end of milling season to replenish what the country needs,” he said.

Earlier, Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said that the department is planning to import refined sugar to bolster local supply during the end of the local milling season.

The SRA’s order allows exporters of raw sugar to the US to import refined sugar in approved volumes to replenish sugar stocks.

Meanwhile, the Sugar Council — a group composed of three planter federations — said that the export plan may not offer any benefit for local producers.

“We cannot readily accept the premise that the Philippines is obliged to fill whatever US quota it is granted, especially when domestic supply situation will necessitate an importation program,” the group said in a letter to Mr. Tiu Laurel dated July 8.

The letter was signed by the Confederation of Sugar Producers Associations, Inc., the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters, Inc., and the Panay Federation of Sugarcane Farmers, Inc. and addressed to the President and Agriculture Secretary.

The group added that any importation program should be based on “a trigger point, data-based, carefully calibrated, and decided in a transparent manner immune from manipulation or cartelization.”

https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2024/07/29/610685/phl-to-resume-sugar-exports-to-us/#google_vignette

BUSINESS WORLD:

Habi announces fair dates, *piña* and *abaca* weaving contests

July 29, 2024 | 12:05 am



scene from last year's judging and deliberation of entries; From left - Fashion designer Barge Ramos, Noli Hans (Hidden), and Erlic Gomez-Manaloto.

HABI: The Philippine Textile Council invites *piña* and abaca weavers to showcase their skills in its two flagship competitions: the 7th Lourdes Montinola Piña Weaving Competition and the 3rd Eloisa Hizon-Gomez Abaca Weaving Competition. The competitions, which are part of HABI's mission to preserve, promote, celebrate, and develop Philippine textiles and the country's weaving culture, are among the highlights of the council's annual Lihang Habi Fair which will be held on Oct. 18 to 20 at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

Last year, Marilyn Almero of La Herminia Piña Weaving won two prizes at the 6th Lourdes Montinola Piña Competition for the excellence and innovation of her piece called *Peacock*. Aklan weavers Raquel Eliserio and Anna India Legazpi were first and second runner-up, respectively.

Winners of last year's Eloisa Hizon-Gomez Abaca Weaving Competition were Anna India Legazpi, Agustin Tawi Sudaw of Bulacan, and Edgar Cornito, a T'Boli from Lake Sebu, South Cotabato.

This is the 7th edition of the Lourdes Montinola Piña Weaving Competition, the Philippines' premier *piña* weaving contest, named after the chair *emeritus* of the Far Eastern University and author who

is a champion of indigenous textiles. She has written several books including *Piña*, a landmark book about the origins, the history, and the artistry of the pineapple fiber cloth.

Artists and artisans who want to join the competition may work on their own or collaborate in creating extraordinary *piña*. Entries will be evaluated based on quality of making — excellence of the range of processes used including the knotting of the fiber, control over weaving tension, balance between the tensile strengths of *piña* and other fibers woven with the pineapple fiber, dyeing or other form of coloring, the physical relationship of the embellishments to the woven cloth and more — and quality of innovation and use of imagination.

The judges will be looking for freshness and excellence in the way they handle *piña* as a material. Blending with other natural fibers is allowed, as long as *piña* makes up more than 50% of the body of the cloth. Participants are encouraged to explore new possibilities for couture and experiment with new procedures in the making of pineapple fiber cloth. Submissions need to be at least two meters long. There is no regulation on the width.

Three winners will be chosen and ranked first, second, and third. “There will be special awards for young weavers under 30 years old and for outstanding innovation,” said Adelaida Lim, President *emeritus* of HABI.

Abaca weavers get their chance to shine in the Eloisa Hizon Gomez Abaca Weaving Competition. Ms. Lim said, “The *abaca* competition was initiated by the former fashion designer Gang Gomez, now Don Martin, OSB, and his siblings, to honor the memory of their mother who championed the wearing of native attires and use of local textiles.”

For the 3rd Eloisa Hizon-Gomez Abaca Weaving Competition, participants may also work on their own or collaborate with other artists in creating extraordinary *abaca* cloth. Submissions must be at least three meters long and woven exclusively using *abaca* fiber. The width is up to the contestants. Entries will be judged based on excellence in execution, skill and technique, including knotting and control of weaving tension, design and weaving qualities specific to the culture of the weaving community, aesthetics, dyeing or other forms of coloring and quality of innovation, if any.

Three exceptional pieces will be chosen and awarded equal prizes.

Entries must be packed with care and submitted to Habi: The Philippine Textile Council, Inc. Office at No. 962 May St., Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila. Entries must include a signed application form with the following details: title of work, name of weaver, age of weaver, indigenous group, mentor, address, weaving experience, how long it took to make the piece, description of the process and date. The deadline for submissions is on Sept. 16.

Interested parties may find out more about the competition mechanics by checking the council’s website habiphilippinetextilecouncil.com, and its social media pages on Facebook and Instagram (@HABICouncil). For more information, call HABI: The Philippine Textile Council at 0921-849-6974 or e-mail support@habiphilippinetextilecouncil.com.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/arts-and-leisure/2024/07/29/610606/habi-announces-fair-dates-pina-and-abaca-weaving-contests/>

SRA announces plan to resume raw sugar exports to United States

By Othel V. Campos
July 28, 2024, 7:15 pm

The Philippines will resume exporting raw sugar to the United States, starting with 25,300 metric tons in fiscal year 2024, the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) said over the weekend.

It issued Sugar Order No. 3 series of 2023-2024 allowing the exports under the US raw sugar tariff-rate quota (TRQ) world trade allocation. TRQ allows countries to export specified quantities of a product to the United States at a relatively low tariff. The Philippines is one of 39 countries singled out for participation in this first-come, first-served allocation system.

It will mark the first shipment to the US after three years of non-compliance with the program due to several years of low domestic production.

The SRA confirmed that this year's production exceeded 1.92 million metric tons, allowing a surplus of 25,300 MT to be allocated to the US market.

The first shipment is expected to leave the Philippines in August, with arrival in the US scheduled for September.

The move is expected to strengthen the Philippines' position as a reliable sugar exporter and contribute to the global supply chain.

The Philippines also secured a 145,23 metric ton raw value (MTRV) allocation for raw cane sugar exports to the United States for fiscal year 2025 under the TRQ system, the third highest allocation next to the Dominican Republic's 189,343 MTRV and Brazil's 155,993 MTRV.

The US Trade Representative (USTR) announced the new list of allocations on July 25, 2024 that also includes, refined, specialty sugar and sugar-containing products apart from raw cane sugar.

<https://manilastandard.net/business/314477481/sra-announces-plan-to-resume-raw-sugar-exports-to-united-states.html>

NFA Inspection



By Manila Standard Business
July 28, 2024, 11:15 pm

National Food Authority (NFA) administrator Larry Lacson (sixth from left) leads a three-day visit to Davao by the NFA Council to review the agency's operations, inspect facilities and conduct a dialogue with farmers' groups to provide council members an on-ground perspective and better understanding of farmers' plights and concerns.

<https://manilastandard.net/gallery/314477496/nfa-inspection.html>

PH to ship 25,300 MT of sugar to US

By Janine Alexis Miguel

July 29, 2024

THE Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) has approved the export of 25,300 metric tons (MT) of raw sugar to the United States in a bid to secure future allocations.

Sugar Order (SO) 3, released on July 26, states that participation is open to qualified parties under SO 2 with sugar quedans dated Jan. 28, 2024 or earlier.

SRA Administrator Pablo Luis Azcona said the Philippines was previously unable to meet its US export quota commitments due to insufficient output.

The SRA said that local production for the current crop year had reached 1.92 million MT, surpassing the previous year's output by more than 120,000 MT "and likewise allowing the Philippines to fulfill its US quota allocation."

"The intention of this voluntary US export of 25,300 MT of locally produced raw sugar is to allow the Philippines to fulfill, after a non-compliance of more than three years, its obligations under the significantly reduced US Raw Sugar Tariff-Rate Quota World Trade Allocation," the order stated.

This will be the first export in fulfillment of the US sugar quota allocation for this year, the SRA said.

SO 3 takes effect three days after the date of its filing with the Office of the National Registrar at the UP Law Center in Diliman, Quezon City.

Sugar intended for export is classified as "A" sugar, which is typically priced lower than that meant for the domestic market. The SRA said participants had "expressed their willingness to help the government fulfill its allocation under the US sugar quota despite the lower return therefore and the additional cost and uncertainty inherent to the exportation of sugar."

In November 2023, the Philippine government requested a reallocation of the US quota granted in May this year. The SRA said the export plan was a step toward maintaining the country's commitment to international trade agreements and improving future trade opportunities.

The export participants will be given priority in future government sugar importation programs based on the volume of sugar exported to the US.

The SRA said that it would monitor the export process to ensure compliance with the terms outlined and also adjust policies as needed to support the local sugar industry.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/29/business/top-business/ph-to-ship-25300-mt-of-sugar-to-us/1960389>

PH leads Asia in banana exports

By Janine Alexis Miguel

July 29, 2024

THE Philippines solidified its position as Asia's leading banana exporter, delivering over 2.3 million metric tons (MT) to various markets in 2023, according to a report from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Philippine bananas accounted for 60 percent of shipments from Asia in 2023. The volume also reflects a 3.4-percent increase from 2022.

The increase in exports was attributed to growing markets such as Iran and Saudi Arabia, where shipments increased by 60 percent and 12 percent, respectively.

The FAO also said that the growth indicated a recovery after three years of consecutive declines due to challenges related to the pandemic and the impact of Tropical Race 4 (TR4) disease on 2020-2022.

"Over the past decade, the country's banana production has been impacted by adverse growing conditions related to various factors, including the spread of TR4, occasional floodings and occurrences of political unrest," it said.

For its part, the Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association said the increase was due to substantial investments on measures versus TR4 and rehabilitating 3,000 to 4,000 hectares of affected plantations.

As of February 2024, TR4 had hit around 17,000 to 18,000 hectares of banana plantations in the Philippines.

The FAO also said that logistical difficulties had impacted the quality of bananas exported to Japan in the first nine months of 2023. Demand for bananas remained strong in major markets, the FAO said, given its affordability compared to other fruits. Global imports of bananas grew slightly by 0.3 percent last year to 18.4 million MT.

"Amid inflationary pressures, bananas continued to benefit from their relative affordability compared to other fruits, which supported their popularity among consumers," the agency said.

China, the third-largest importer of bananas globally, saw a 2.3-percent decline in imports to just below 1.8 million MT due to lower global supplies. Imports from the Philippines and Cambodia, which accounted for 50 percent of China's banana imports, were also affected.

Looking ahead, the FAO projected the global banana market for 2024 to have more positive developments "provided that price variations in real terms will continue to be favorable and price increases at the export and import stages are also captured by producers."

However, it added that the spread of TR4 remained a concern due to its ability to affect a wide range of banana and plantain cultivars and the lack of effective eradication methods.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/29/business/top-business/ph-leads-asia-in-banana-exports/1960387>

PH slides to 3rd spot in global banana exports

By **Jed Macapagal**

July 29, 2024

Global banana exports			
Origin	2022 (million tons)	2023 (million tons)	Percent change
Ecuador	5.8	6.2	6.7
Guatemala	2.2	2.6	17.5
Philippines	2.27	2.35	3.5
Costa Rica	2.1	1.9	-12
Colombia	2.2	1.7	-24
Global total	19.1	19.3	0.3

Source: PSA and FAO

The Philippines slid to the third spot in global banana exports in 2023, according to a market review released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority show in 2023, the Philippines shipped a total of 2.35 million tons of bananas with China and Japan as primary buyers.

The Philippines' shipment of bananas last year is a 3.5- percent increase compared to 2022's 2.27 million tons.

The FAO market review added total global exports of banana for the period reached 19.3 million tons, 12.2 percent of which was contributed by the Philippines.

For the period, Ecuador took the top spot, exporting bulk of the global banana shipments of 6.2 million tons or 32.13 percent of total.

Guatemala came in at second with 2.6 million tons or 13.5 percent of all shipments.

In fourth spot is Costa Rica with 1.9 million tons or 9.8 percent of all banana exports in the world.

Colombia rounded up the top five with 1.7 million tons or 8.8 percent of all bananas globally shipped.

The FAO report quoted the Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association which attributed the improved banana export figures of the Philippines in 2023 to the local industry's heavy investments in the containment of plant diseases as well as the successful rehabilitation of some 3,000 to 4,000 hectares of previously infected plantations.

The market review said the Philippines supplies 60 percent of Asian banana shipments on average, despite being impacted by adverse growing conditions related to various factors, including the spread of fusarium wilt tropical race 4 disease, occasional floods and occurrences of political unrest.

The banana plant disease, more commonly known as Panama disease, is caused by the soil-borne fungus *Fusarium oxysporum* that enters the banana plant's roots and colonizes the xylem vessels, blocking the flow of water and nutrients which can cause the wilting and death of the crop.

FAO said this, paired with logistical difficulties, affected the quality of Filipino bananas which hampered shipments from the Philippines particularly during the first nine months of the year, notably to Japan and China.

The report said the situation only improved significantly in the final quarter of 2023, with exports to emerging destinations like Iran and Saudi Arabia respectively expanding by 60 percent and 12 percent in quantity terms.

https://malaya.com.ph/news_business/ph-slides-to-3rd-spot-in-global-banana-exports/

3.6M affected by ‘Carina,’ monsoon rains; 28 dead

By **Victor Reyes**

July 29, 2024

OVER 3.6 million individuals or nearly a million families have been affected by the combined effects of three weather systems, including typhoon “Carina,” in the past weeks, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said yesterday.

The also said the effects of Carina, tropical depression “Butchoy,” and the southwest monsoon in the past days have claimed 28 lives throughout the country, although the PNP already reported 34 deaths as of last Friday due to Carina alone.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) is monitoring a low pressure area (LPA).

As of 3 p.m. yesterday, it was some 780 km north northeast of Catarman, Northern Samar or 635 km east of Aparri, Cagayan.

There is small chance the LPA will develop into a tropical depression, said PAGASA weather specialist Grace Castaneda.

PAGASA said the trough of the LPA will bring cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms to the Bicol region and the provinces of Aurora, Quezon, Northern Salar, and Eastern Samar.

Metro Manila, Ilocos Region, Zambales, Bataan, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Occidental Mindoro, and northern Palawan will have cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms due to the southwest monsoon.

The NDRRMC said the 3,628,500 affected individuals, or 971,667 families, are from 3,110 barangays in 16 of the country’s 17 regions.

Eastern Visayas is the only region that posted no affected population.

Among the regions, Central Luzon had the highest number of affected population with 634,570 families or 2,134,938 individuals, followed by Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao or BARMM (110,874 families or 552,971 individuals), Soccsksargen (53,381 families or 260,767 individuals), Ilocos (61,748 families or 242,648 individuals), and National Capital Region (NCR) or Metro Manila (36,810 families or 145,977 individuals).

Of the total affected population, 260,062 families or 1,069,354 individuals remained displaced. Of the displaced, 42,673 families or 168,933 individuals are staying at 1,025 evacuation centers while the rest are with their relatives and friends.

FATALITIES

Of the 28 fatalities recorded by the NDRRMC, 12 are in NCR, five are in Calabarzon, four in Zamboanga Peninsula, two each in Central Luzon and BARMM, and one each in Ilocos region, Northern Mindanao, and Davao region.

Only 10 of these deaths have been so far validated — four in Zamboanga Peninsula, two in Central Luzon, and one each in Northern Mindanao, Davao region, BARMM and NCR.

The 18 others are still subject to validation process, the NDRRMC said.

DAMAGE TO AGRI

Initial cost of damage to the agriculture sector of the southwest monsoon and Carina was placed at P612.6 million as of Saturday, up by 53 percent from the previous P399.91 million, according to the Department of Agriculture's Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Operations Center.

The agency said of the 28,201 ha affected, 20,009 ha or 70.95 percent could recover.

Bulk of Carina's recorded damage is from rice at P507.33 million equivalent to 8,022 MT followed by 2,857 MT of corn worth P58.59 million.

Also damaged were high-value crops worth P46.28 million worth, and 2,416 heads of livestock.

The DA also said assistance available for distribution to affected farmers and fishers include 72,174 bags of rice seeds; 39,546 bags of corn seeds; 59,600 pouches and 1,966 kilograms of vegetable seeds.

The agency added there is also the Survival and Recovery Loan Program from the Agricultural Credit Policy Council with loanable amount of up to P25,000 payable in three years at zero interest; quick response fund for the rehabilitation of affected areas; and indemnification from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp.

Fingerlings, fishing gears and other equipment are also being provided by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

ROADS, BRIDGES

The NDRRMC said 720 houses were damaged. It placed the cost of damage at P2.66 million.

A total 105 cities and municipalities have been placed under state of calamity, including all the 16 cities and one municipality in the NCR, the NDRRMC said.

Also affected by floods were 343 road sections, of which 98 are still not passable. Also affected were 24 bridges, nine of them are not yet passable.

DSWD AID

The Department of Social Welfare and Development said it has extended some P199 million in “humanitarian assistance” to 1.1 million affected families (3,631,339 individuals) in 3,289 barangays affected by typhoon Carina as of 6 a.m. Sunday.

The DSWD said 27,042 families or 102,783 individuals who were displaced are staying in evacuation centers of which are staying ate evacuation centers, while 54,856 families or 195,096 individuals are “outside evacuation centers.”

It said 923,315 family food packs were distributed as of Sunday morning, of which 132,445 were in Metro Manila, 398,651 in Central Luzon, 128,320 in the Southern Tagalog region (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon), 77,002 in the Mimaropa (Mindoro-Marinduque-Romblon-Palawan) region, and 186,897 in the Bicol region.

Speaker Martin Romualdez commended the Singapore Red Cross for donating US \$50,000 or about P2.925 million to Carina’s victims.

The Singapore Red Cross donation will be coursed through the Philippine Red Cross.

In an announcement, the SRC said the money would be used to support its Philippine counterpart’s “emergency operations, providing essential assistance and relief to the affected communities.”

“The intensified rainfall, floods and landslides caused by the tropical cyclone have a devastating impact on families and communities. We are closely monitoring the situation and are in close communication with the Philippine Red Cross to ensure that our contribution provides the best support to the affected communities,” said Benjamin William, secretary general/CEO of the Singapore Red Cross.

Migrante International is appealing to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to help in aiding families affected by the calamity.

Migrante International, which is partnering with the Consortium For People’s Development – Disaster Response, said the assistance will benefit families in Metro Manila which was been placed a state of calamity last week. – **With Jed Macapagal, Raymond Africa, Wendell Vigilia and Gerard Naval**

https://malaya.com.ph/news_news/3-6m-affected-by-carina-monsoon-rains-28-dead/

PHL gets US raw sugar quota despite 3-yr non-compliance

Ada Pelonia
July 29, 2024

THE Philippines again secured a raw sugar quota for the fiscal year 2025 from Washington despite its failure to fill its allocation for more than three years.

The US Trade Representative (USTR) announced the allocation of 145,235 metric tons raw value (MTRV) of raw cane sugar under the tariff-rate quota (TRQ) system for fiscal year 2025, which will start on Oct. 1, 2024.

The Philippines got the third largest allocation after the Dominican Republic at 189,343 MTRV and Brazil at 155,993 MTRV.

Under the TRQ, countries are allowed to export specified quantities of a product to the US at a relatively low tariff.

Meanwhile, the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) issued Sugar Order (SO) 3 which allowed the exportation of 25,300 metric tons (MT) of raw sugar to the US.

The SRA said the production of locally produced sugar for the crop year 2023-2024 has exceeded 1.92 million metric tons (MMT), which allowed the Philippines to fulfill its US quota allocation.

The agency noted that the intention of the voluntary US export of 25,300 MT of raw sugar is to allow the Philippines to fulfill its obligations under the TRQ World Trade allocation after a “non-compliance of more than three years.”

The SRA said the export program would be open to qualified participants of SO 2, Series of 2023-2024, whose sugar quedans are dated Jan. 28, 2024 or earlier, and have been reclassified from “B” (domestic sugar) to “C” (reserve sugar).

However, this is provided that the participant remains to be an SRA-licensed international sugar trader in good standing at the time of availment of the privilege under SO 3.

A quedan is the equivalent of a warehouse receipt. It shows ownership of a specified amount of sugar in a warehouse or sugar central. A negotiable instrument, it is a primary trading document in the Philippine sugar industry.

The SRA said eligible participants under SO 3 who complied with the stipulated conditions along with the requirements of the memorandum circular (MC) issued pursuant to this order would be given priority in future sugar import programs.

This is on the basis of the volume of locally produced raw sugar actually exported to the US in fulfillment of the 2024 US Quota, at a ratio of 1 (locally produced raw sugar actually exported to the US):2.5 (imported sugar).

The last time the Philippines exported raw sugar to the United States was during crop year 2020-2021. The country exported 112,008 metric tons commercial weight (MTCW) of raw sugar out of its total quota of 138,154 MTCW.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/29/phl-gets-us-raw-sugar-quota-despite-3-yr-non-compliance/>

‘Storm farm damage could fuel inflation’

Reine Juvierre S. Alberto
July 29, 2024

Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) economist Leonardo Lanzona and Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort told the BusinessMirror inflation may accelerate temporarily from July to August this year.

Lanzona said if production remains the same or declines, which is more likely, then inflation may increase temporarily and normalcy can be restored within months.

“Realistically, there may be some temporary pickup in prices in hard-hit areas until logistics normalize, also in view of some damage on agriculture that could lead to some temporary spike in produce prices,” Ricafort said.

However, Ricafort said the price freeze on basic goods implemented in Metro Manila after the declaration of the state of calamity would help temper inflation, which has been a consistent pattern seen during storm season.

Asked whether the temporary uptick in inflation could breach the government’s target of 2 to 4 percent, Lanzona said, “that would be the case,” while Ricafort said inflation will stay within target.

Inflation slowed to 3.7 percent in June 2024 due to lower energy prices, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

However, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Eli M. Remolona Jr. said “it’s not yet time to declare victory” as there is still a 50-50 chance that inflation could breach 4 percent in July.

‘Rate cut to aggravate inflation’

Lanzona said inflation can be aggravated if the prospective reduction of key policy rates this coming August is implemented.

“A rate decrease will cause aggregate demand to go higher, thus aggravating the inflation caused by the storm,” Lanzona emphasized.

A rate cut is not advisable since inflation induced by the typhoon will further worsen if interest rates are reduced, Lanzona explained.

Lanzona said increasing interest rates would lower aggregate demand among consumers and businesses and ensure that prices will not increase further, bringing down inflation.

“The policy of raising interest rates should logically continue,” Lanzona said, explaining that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas’s (BSP) main reason for raising interest rates is the inflation caused by higher food prices.

Meanwhile, Ricafort said any 0.25-basis-points reduction as early as August will have no impact on inflation, which will be largely determined by lower imported rice prices.

Ricafort said the cut in rice import tariff rate to 15 percent from 35 percent could partly reduce local rice prices, which accounts for about 9 percent of the inflation basket.

Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto said the Monetary Board, the highest policy-making body of the BSP, is on track to reduce interest rates this year to support consumer and investment growth.

However, Recto, a member of the Monetary Board, said he is a “little more conservative,” signaling the possibility of postponing a rate cut this coming Monetary Board policy meeting on August 15 to be followed on October 17.

Lanzona said the BSP should still try to reduce interest rates once inflation has stabilized.

Infra, remittances to pull growth

Ricafort said remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and conversion to Philippine peso could also increase at the time of calamity.

This could spur additional business and overall economic activities to offset the disruptions caused by the typhoon, Ricafort added.

Increased government spending on infrastructure repair could also compensate for economic losses as well as household consumption, such as purchasing appliances, furniture and fixtures, cars and motorcycles, among others, to fix storm damage, could also pull economic growth, Ricafort added.

Consumption accounts for 70 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

“With the typhoon, more infrastructure can be expected. As such, the original budget may be expanded in order just to cope with the damages caused by the typhoon,” Lanzona said.

Lanzona said the P5.767-billion national budget for 2024 may be expanded for the government to cope with the damage since more infrastructure can be expected after the onslaught of the typhoon.

“The government needs to be more strategic and plan better in terms of infrastructure to ensure that productivity is once again restored or even be increased with well-placed investments,” Lanzona said.

The government should not also be contented with the expected temporary uptick in inflation returning to normalcy.

“The typhoon can offer certain opportunities for rebuilding that can raise growth in the medium term,” Lanzona added.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/29/storm-farm-damage-could-fuel-inflation/>

New dam in Rizal cited for reducing flood caused by Carina

Jonathan L. Mayuga
July 29, 2024



GOVERNMENT officials said on Sunday a new dam in Rizal eased the effect of the floods caused by the southwest monsoon or habagat that was enhanced by Typhoon Carina.

The heavy-rains caused widespread flooding in Metro Manila and at least four other regions in Luzon.

The dam was built by Prime Infra-led WawaJVCo Inc., the developer and operator of the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project as part of Phase 2 of the infrastructure project.

The Upper Wawa Dam built by the company, began impounding operations on its reservoir on July 10.

Upper Wawa Dam is located in Rizal and is within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape.

During heavy rains, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) monitors the water level of various dams and orders the release of excess water only when the level reaches the spilling level.

Large water reservoirs such as Angat Dam are utilized for domestic water supply and irrigation.

While designed as a water supply dam, the Upper Wawa Dam can also help mitigate flooding in downstream communities, particularly low-lying areas in Rizal province and the eastern district of Metro Manila.

During the situation briefing on the impact of Typhoon Carina and the enhanced southwest monsoon in Rizal province on Friday Gov. Nina Ynares informed President Marcos that without the Upper Wawa Dam, flooding in certain areas of the province could have been significantly worse.

In a statement, Ynares noted that the Upper Wawa Dam's reservoir needed six months to fully impound water. However, owing to the heavy rainfall from Typhoon Carina, the reservoir was nearly filled in just two days.

“Mr. President, sometime this month, we were together during the inauguration of [Upper] Wawa Dam. We saw it was empty and [they said] it would take six months for them to fill it up...without it, I feel that, most likely, San Mateo and Montalban would be down; and definitely, Marikina and parts of Quezon City and even Pasig would be affected,” said Ynares.

Marcos, who led the Impounding Process Ceremony of the Upper Wawa Dam on July 10, nodded in agreement, as he saw photograph of floodwater entering the reservoir.

“In three days, ganoon [karami] ang tubig na bumagsak,” noted the President.

“The Upper Wawa Dam project by WawaJVCo has significantly reduced the effects of flooding in comparison to previous occurrences,” the provincial government highlighted in its presentation to the President.

The Upper Wawa Dam features a reservoir of about 450 hectares, approximately twice the size of Bonifacio Global City, and can store up to 120 million cubic meters of water.

It is the largest dam to be built in over 50 years, with the critical objective of addressing water supply security in Metro Manila and the province of Rizal.

Based on measurements conducted throughout July 24, Wednesday, the floodwater entering the dam's reservoir peaked at approximately 2,100 cubic meters per second (m³/s).

The Upper Wawa Dam reservoir accumulated over 90 million cubic meters of water during the typhoon. This helped to mitigate downstream flooding.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/29/new-dam-in-rizal-cited-for-reducing-flood-caused-by-carina/>

Bataan oil spill worries Cavite fishermen

Jonathan L. Mayuga
July 29, 2024

CAVITE fishermen on Sunday expressed alarm over the possibility that the oil spill from the sunken Terra Nova off Limay, Bataan, will eventually reach their fishing grounds.

Cavite and Bataan are located on both ends of Manila Bay. **Related story in A12, “Terranova oil spill affects Bulacan, Cavite, Bataan–map.”**

In a statement, the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) in Cavite said that while their local members have yet to observe any trace of oil in their municipal waters, they are worried that the oil spill could adversely affect their fishing activities.

Pamalakaya-Cavite said Cavite’s fishermen have yet to recover from the devastation wrought by Typhoon Carina and the inclement weather forced many fishermen not to go out fishing for almost two months now.

“We won’t be able to survive this new threat brought about by the oil spill, We are appealing to authorities to immediate act to prevent the spread of the oil spill,” says,” Richard Catenza, Pamalakaya-Cavite president, said in a statement.

On Sunday, Pamalakaya, along with Amihan Peasant Women and youth advocates, distributed rice packs and relief goods to coastal communities in Manila Bay.

The group earlier reported that some 28,000 fishermen and coastal residents were affected by Typhoon Carina and the enhanced southwest monsoon or habagat across Manila Bay. The affected coastal areas include Navotas City, and several towns in Cavite province including Tanza, Rosario, and Bacoor City.

The relief drive was initiated to assist the fishermen who halted their fishing activities for more than two months owing to the rough seas. The group also said that it will lead grassroots campaigns demanding the national government an

appropriate and timely humanitarian action, that includes people-centered disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation initiatives.

“We have experienced oil spills in the past. The government should have learned by now how to prevent it from spreading and affecting other areas to prevent disaster for fishing communities. While it was caused by accident, it will be criminal negligence on the part of the government if it fails to prevent the spread of oil,” Ronnel Arambulo, Pamalakaya vice chairman said.

The militant group said that it is closely monitoring several coastal towns in Cavite that might be affected by the oil spill. These include the municipal waters of Tanza and Rosario, where more than 10,000 fishermen will be affected in case the spill reaches the area.

To recall, the MT Terra Nova departed Bataan for Iloilo but it capsized owing to the strong wind and ocean current some 3.6 nautical miles east off Limay, Bataan around 10 a.m. Thursday. One of the 17 crew members died in the accident.

The past two days, combined efforts of the Coast Guard, the Maritime Group of the National Police, and other concerned agencies deployed an oil boom to prevent the oil from spilling.

So far, authorities said the oil spill was coming from the working fuel of the motor tanker and not from the 1.4 million liters of stored industrial oil.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/29/bataan-oil-spill-worries-cavite-fishermen/>

Ports see lower fish unloading volume in June

Ada Pelonia
July 29, 2024



Regional ports recorded lower fish unloading volume in June due to bad weather and Davao Gulf's closed fishing season, according to the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA).

PFDA said the fish unloading volume in June fell by 11 percent to 59,259.88 metric tons (MT) from the previous month's 66,587.86 MT.

“Despite some setbacks due to weather and closed fishing season, the PFDA and its RFPs [regional fish ports] are consistently doing their best to provide sufficient and affordable fishery products to its clients and stakeholders,” the agency said in a statement.

PFDA said the General Santos Fish Port Complex experienced a “slight setback” in its monthly fish unloading volume which reached 29,635.67 MT. This was 14.71 percent lower than the 34,747.19 MT recorded in May.

The Navotas Fish Port Complex trailed behind as it unloaded 21,792.80 MT of fish. This was lower than the 23,312.20 MT of fish products delivered to consumers in the capital region and nearby provinces last month.

The PFDA noted that the sole port in the Visayas–Iloilo Fish Port Complex–registered a slight decrease in fish delivery last month at 2,505.30 MT because of the onset of the “habagat” season.

For its Luzon ports, the agency said the Bulan Fish Port Complex unloaded 2,308.75 MT of fish while the Lucena Fish Port Complex delivered 1,794.20 MT.

Despite the implementation of the closed fishing season in Davao Gulf which started on June 1 and will run until August 31, the PFDA said the Davao Fish Port Complex unloaded a “much-needed” 1,794.20 MT of fish.

Meanwhile, the Sual Fish Port delivered 105.85 MT of fish in June, while the Zamboanga Fish Port Complex showed a “positive performance” with 925.995 MT.

The latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed that the country’s fisheries production in January to March reached 987,190 MT. The figure is 0.5 percent lower than the 992,330 MT recorded last year.

“The decrease in production was noted in marine municipal fisheries, while commercial, inland municipal fisheries, and aquaculture reported increments in production during the period.”

Production in the first quarter was buoyed by commercial fisheries, which recorded an output of 188,920 MT. The figure is 10.7 percent higher than the previous year’s 170,600 MT. The subsector accounted for 19.1 percent of the total fisheries production.

In contrast, the output of marine municipal fisheries during the period declined. PSA said marine municipal fisheries produced 211,330 MT, 12.4 percent lower than the previous year’s 241,370 MT.

“Aquaculture production was registered at 546.40 thousand metric tons in the first quarter of 2024. This was 0.1 percent higher than 545.88 thousand metric tons output in the same period of 2023.”

Of the 20 major species, PSA output reductions were primarily noted in bali sardinella (tamban), milkfish, threadfin bream (bisugo), blue crab (alimasag), and seaweed.

“On the other hand, increments were mainly reported in skipjack, tilapia, frigate tuna (tulingan), fimbriated sardines (tunsoy), and yellowfin tuna (tambakol/bariles).”

Image credits: [Philippine News Agency file photo](#)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/29/ports-see-lower-fish-unloading-volume-in-june/>

FAO: Disease, logistics issues cut PHL banana exports

Ada Pelonia
July 29, 2024

The spread of Fusarium Wilt Tropical Race 4 disease across local plantations and logistics challenges limited the Philippines's banana shipments last year, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

“Available monthly export data show that these difficulties hampered shipments from the Philippines particularly during the first nine months of the year, notably to Japan and China, the two key destinations for bananas from the Philippines,” FAO said in its latest report.

The report showed that net imports by China declined by 2.3 percent to just below 1.8 million metric tons (MMT) in 2023 due to lower global supplies.

FAO added that imports into China were hindered by supply shortages experienced in the Philippines and Cambodia, from where China procured some 50 percent of banana imports combined in recent years.

“Monthly trade data show that Chinese imports of Filipino bananas dropped by 9 percent year-on-year over the first ten months of 2023, which could not be offset by higher shipments during the remainder of the year.”

The report also noted that net imports by Japan fell by 2 percent last year to about 1 MMT.

“While demand for bananas in the country remained relatively stable, import quantities were reduced by the production shortages experienced in the Philippines, from where Japan typically sources some 75 to 80 percent of its banana imports.”

Despite this, FAO said the Philippines remained the main exporter from Asia as it supplied some 60 percent of the region's banana shipments on average.

Banana shipments from the Philippines rose by 3.4 percent in 2023 to 2.3 MMT, according to FAO. The hurdles it encountered did not stop the Philippines from developing other markets outside of East Asia.

“[The country also exported] to emerging destinations like the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia respectively expanding by 60 percent and 12 percent in quantity terms.”

FAO said full-year estimates indicate that global exports of bananas, excluding plantain, experienced moderate growth of 0.3 percent in quantity terms in 2023, marking a more positive performance than the 6 percent decrease experienced in 2022. Total export quantities reached some 19.3 MMT in 2023.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/29/fao-disease-logistics-issues-cut-phl-banana-exports/>

DA aims to build more greenhouses to raise crop yields

Ada Pelonia
July 29, 2024

The Department of Agriculture (DA) wants to build more greenhouses that will enable farmers to raise crop yields.

Agriculture Undersecretary Jerome Oliveros said Manila is banking on its partnership with South Korea to expand the number of greenhouses in the country.

“We wanted to bring in more greenhouses like what we have seen here in the projects of KOPIA [Korea Partnership for Innovation of Agriculture],” Oliveros told reporters on the sidelines of a recent symposium in Makati.

“It really inspires our farmers and the yields are very high—more than about 30 percent compared to open field farming.”

The KOPIA, an ODA program of the Rural Development Administration (RDA), which is Korea’s largest agricultural research and development organization, has constructed greenhouses in Lucban, Quezon, Siniloan, Laguna, and Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija.

This is part of the “Pilot Village Project on Protective Cultivation and Postharvest Management of Vegetables” project, which aims to increase farmers’ income, according to the DA.

Through the project, facilities such as greenhouses with drip irrigation systems and postharvest buildings were established at the pilot sites. Production inputs, farm machinery, training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), and postharvest technologies were also provided.

Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) Director Gerald Glenn Panganiban said that since the pilot project on greenhouse farming saw success, they plan to expand it further. He added that the project would cultivate mostly high-value crops.

The BPI director said the project would also be established in five other areas either by next year or in 2026.

He noted that the department will try to finance it internally, but the DA is hopeful that other partners, donors, and private sectors would bet on the project given its potential to raise farmers' income.

Meanwhile, Panganiban said the government plans to export other farm products to South Korea.

“After avocado, I think we want to try mangosteen. Durian is also on the way,” he said.

“The Philippines has not fully taken advantage of the opportunities presented by frozen products. The risk of exporting these products is lower since they no longer carry pests and diseases.”

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/29/da-aims-to-build-more-greenhouses-to-raise-crop-yields/>

‘Adding value to organic cacao, durian will hike farmers income’

Manuel Cayon
July 29, 2024

Davao City—A new study indicated that farmers will reap more benefits from adding value to organic durian and cacao, according to a Korean-backed Filipino organization.

Ronita P. Buenaventura, project coordinator for the Korean organization Camp Asia, said the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) in Kabacan, North Cotabato and in the barangays of Manuel Guianga and Sirib in Tubok are currently testing the viability of organic cacao and durian production.

Durian was planted in a 100-hectare plot by 80 farmers in USM. Meanwhile, some 15 hectares of land in USM and Sirib were planted with cacao.

Buenaventura told the BusinessMirror that the project aims to produce and sell frozen durian, which fetches a higher price.

She said Camp Asia and Unorka, a local farmers’ organization, have been in talks with the Department of Science and Technology for possible government support for the production of frozen durian.

Buenaventura also said the project is targeting to produce cocoa liquor, locally known as tablea.

For the organic durian, she said the project will run for nine years. The first three years, she said, would focus on the transition from the old practice of using inorganic fertilizer to organic farming.

“This is a necessary transition considering that these durian trees are already at least 25 years old and used to having chemical fertilizers.”

During the first phase, farmers would be encouraged to form and consolidate their cooperative for Camp Asia and other organizations, including government to train and equip them on the necessary skills and knowledge in farm and cooperative management.

“We will graduate from being producers only of raw materials. We will not be exporting the fruits only but we will apply value adding. We will sell the frozen durian as a processing and production practice at the cooperative level,” Buenaventura said. “We will begin to industrialize at the barangay level.”

As for cacao, she said Camp Asia would focus on the smaller planters to raise their production while their reducing their cost.

“We will show them how organic cacao planting can help them,” she said.

“At the end of the three-year project for cacao, there will be knowledge-sharing with the rest of cacao growers in the Calinan and Tugbok areas of northern Davao City.”

Davao City was also selected for the trial planting because the city has its own organic agriculture ordinance.

She said Camp Asia is a South Korean organization that agreed to help the local farmers’ federation, Unorka, to practice organic durian and cacao production. The group assured farmers that South Korea will buy the organic durian and cacao.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/29/adding-value-to-organic-cacao-durian-will-hike-farmers-income/>

Smuggled tabako, sigarilyo ikinalulugi ng magsasaka at ekonomiya ng Pinas

[Ludy Bermudo](#)

July 29, 2024 | 12:00am



Ayon kay Agricultural Economist at University of the Philippines Los Baños' Assistant Professor Dr. Julieta A. Delos Reyes, kailangan ng mga pagkilos para tugunan ang naging panawagan ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. na palakasin ang kampanya kontra smuggling ng tabako.

STAR/File

MANILA, Philippines — Iginiit ng isang Agricultural Economist na mas palakasin ang kampanya laban sa mga puslit na tabako at sigarilyo na patuloy na nakakaapekto sa ekonomiya ng bansa at kabuhayan ng mga magsasaka.

Ayon kay Agricultural Economist at University of the Philippines Los Baños' Assistant Professor Dr. Julieta A. Delos Reyes, kailangan ng mga pagkilos para tugunan ang naging panawagan ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. na palakasin ang kampanya kontra smuggling ng tabako.

Sa pulong ng Private Sector Advisory Council-Agriculture Sector Group (PSAC-ASG), inatasan ng Pangulo ang Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Internal Revenue at Department of Trade and Industry na palakasin ang mga pagkilos para masawata

ang smuggling ng tabako at vape products upang maprotektahan ang industriya ng tabako at mga nagtatanim nito.

Sa pag-aaral ng grupo ni Dr. Delos Reyes noong 2023 na may titulong “Smuggling of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products and Its Effects on Tobacco Producers in the Philippines”, umabot sa 41,180,676 kilo na nagkahahalaga ng US\$224,586,095 ang smuggling ng tabako mula 2018 hanggang 2022.

Sa pag-aaral naman ng University of Asia and the Pacific, ang smuggling ng tabako mula 2018 hanggang 2022 ay nagpabagsak ng Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ng Pilipinas ng P378.9 bilyon, at domestic output na aabot sa P592.1 bilyon.

Nawalan din ng kita ang mga magsasaka nang lumiit sa 289,000 ektarya ang pagtataniman na dati ay 632,000 ektarya, habang tumaas ang suplay sa merkado ng mga puslit ng walang binabayaranang buwis.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/07/29/2373674/smuggled-tabako-sigarilvo-ikinalulugi-ng-magsasaka-ekonomiya-ng-pinas>