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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **BOC seizes around a ton of agricultural products at NAIA**

**BY ARIEL FERNANDEZ**

Aug 13, 2024 02:13 PM

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Personnel of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) have confiscated around a ton of agricultural product shipments at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

In a statement, the BOC said the confiscated products were a result of the two-day operation starting on Aug. 8, when a total of 527.10 kilograms of fresh beef, 26.5 kilograms of fresh chicken, 60 pieces of eggs, 57.1 kilograms of various fruits and vegetables, and 57.10 kilograms of fishery products were seized.

The following day, another shipment from a Japanese passenger was confiscated consisting of 140.2 kilograms of meat and meat products, 10 pieces of eggs, 165 kilograms of fruits, plants, and vegetables, and 235.5 kilograms of assorted fishery products.

The BOC said the seized items lacked the required Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC) from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

“These operations are the direct result of the enhanced partnership between the Bureau and the DA, ensuring that our borders remain protected from the entry of unauthorized goods which may pose health hazards not only the consuming public but our local industries,” said BOC Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/13/boc-seizes-around-a-ton-of-agricultural-products-at-naia>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **Bill proposing creation of Department of Water Resources reaches Senate plenary**

**BY HANNAH L. TORREGOZA**

Aug 13, 2024 01:34 PM

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The bill seeking the creation of the Department of Water Resources has reached the Senate plenary after Senator Grace Poe sponsored the measure.

Poe, in endorsing Senate Bill No. 2771 or the proposed “National Water Resources Management Act,” sponsored the bill’s Committee Report No. 281, which seeks the creation of a separate government agency whose primary task is to solve the decades-long challenge of reforming the water sector.

“The root of our water crisis, however, is actually a crisis in regulation. The problem is not that we don’t have resources, but we do not effectively manage our resources,” Poe said in her sponsorship speech.

“We have the abundant water supply to get ourselves out of this water crisis: 421 river basins; 59 natural lakes; over 100,000 hectares of freshwater swamps; 20.2 billion cubic meters per year of groundwater potential; and 2,400 millimeters of average rainfall throughout the year,” she noted.

But due to a lack of a masterplan, the country’s water sector “operated like flawed and aging water pipes.”

“Our pipes have been laid down in a haphazard manner, just like our water sector which has overlapping agencies and fragmented management,” Poe said.

“Without a clear framework to guide us, solutions have been limited to rearranging pipes and patching up leaks,” she said.

Establishing a single agency that would regulate the country’s water sector will help “untangle the messy bureaucracy” of the said sector.

Under the proposed bill, the proposed Department of Water shall develop the National Water Resources Management Plan which will provide the strategies and work that has to be done to achieve water security.

It shall establish a water resources data center and coordinate with all agencies on resource inventory, research, and data-sharing.

The department’s main duty would be to cultivate the country’s water resources and ensure that everyone will have a proper supply.

The bill also proposes the creation of the National Water Sector Policy Council composed of the heads of the Department of Water Resources, National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Interior and Local Government

(DILG), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Office of the President and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

Aside from this, the Water Regulatory Commission shall be established as an independent quasi-judicial body alongside the department.

The said Commission shall be in charge of regulating all water service providers, from water supply, distribution, and bulk water sourcing to sanitation and sewerage services.

“Through these reforms, we create key centralized institutions with clear mandates and responsibilities yet unified in the goal of attaining universal access to safe, adequate, affordable, and sustainable water supply, and improved sewerage and sanitation services,” she said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/13/bill-proposing-creation-of-department-of-water-resources-reaches-senate-plenary>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# USDA cuts Philippines rice import forecast by 100K MT

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

August 14, 2024 | 12:00am



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

STAR / Edd Gumban

MANILA, Philippines — The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) cut its 2024 rice import forecast for the Philippines by 100,000 metric tons (MT) as purchases by private entities from Vietnam slowed recently.

In its latest global world market report, the USDA revised downward its rice import forecast for the Philippines because of the country's slowing purchases of Vietnam rice.

The international agency is now projecting that the Philippines would be importing 4.6 million MT compared to its estimate last month of 4.7 million MT.

Despite the reduction in import forecast, the Philippines is still seen to be the largest buyer of rice in the world market this year ahead of Vietnam and the European Union, according to the USDA.

Likewise, the USDA is now projecting a lower rice import forecast of 4.6 million MT for the Philippines next year, down 100,000 MT from its earlier estimate of 4.7 million MT as well.

The USDA attributed the decrease to projected higher domestic rice output next year, with consumption and ending stocks remaining steady.

“Global rice production, trade, consumption, and stocks are forecast down this month driven by decreased production for Vietnam. Imports are forecast down led by reductions in the Philippines and Brazil,” the USDA said in its report published yesterday.

The country’s rice output is projected to reach 12.7 million MT next year, about three percent higher than this year’s 12.325 million MT, based on USDA estimates.

Rice consumption, meanwhile, is expected to grow to 17.3 million MT from this year’s 16.6 million MT, with the Philippines remaining as the world’s sixth biggest rice consumer, according to the USDA.

International agencies, government officials and industry players have observed that rice imports in recent months slowed down as uncertainties earlier hounded the reduction of rice tariffs to 15 percent, the lowest in the country’s history.

Private entities are still taking some time to bring in imported rice stocks levied with lower tariff rate as they prioritize disposing of their previous supplies bought at higher tariff to mitigate losses.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. earlier noted that the country’s rice imports this year would not breach the four million MT mark, citing stiffer market competition.

More so, Tiu Laurel expects rice prices to fall by October once more imported stocks slapped with lower tariff rates have entered the country and eventually the market.

Last month, at least 150,000 MT of rice under the lower tariff regime arrived in the country, a volume that is nowhere near the average monthly arrival of about 400,000 MT in the first half.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/08/14/2377621/usda-cuts-philippines-rice-import-forecast-100k-mt>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Call for national state of calamity over ASF junked

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

August 14, 2024 | 12:00am



Pork products are on display for sale in Marikina Public Market on August 13, 2024.

STAR / Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. yesterday dismissed a call by farmers' group Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines (PPFP) to declare a national calamity due to African swine fever (ASF).

Tiu Laurel said the Department of Agriculture (DA) is currently implementing various interventions including enhanced border control, emergency inoculation and increased indemnification measures to control the outbreak.

AGAP party-list Rep. Nicanor Briones, who chairs the PPFP, said the declaration of a nationwide state of calamity is necessary for the government to order mass vaccination of hogs.



Briones said the government could use the calamity fund to procure vaccines as backyard hog raisers cannot afford the price at P600 per dose.

He said the DA's plan to procure 10,000 doses of ASF vaccine is not enough to cover all hogs in Batangas, where outbreaks are ongoing.

Tiu Laurel gave assurance that supply and retail prices of pork remain adequate and stable, respectively.

He said the DA has a multi-faceted approach to combat ASF, including setting up of livestock checkpoints to prevent transport of infected animals as well as immediate purchase of 10,000 doses of ASF vaccine for emergency vaccination of hogs in Batangas.

The DA has increased the indemnification for raisers who surrender their infected pigs, Tiu Laurel said.

The amount was increased from P5,000 to P12,000 per pig, to encourage hog raisers to report and cull their sick hogs instead of selling the animals.

The DA has allocated at least P150 million for the compensation of hog farmers.

DA spokesman Arnel de Mesa gave assurance that expired ASF vaccines would not be used for the controlled vaccination of hogs, particularly in Batangas, to prevent the spread of ASF.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/08/14/2377647/call-national-state-calamity-over-asf-junked>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# **Batangas province placed under state of calamity due to ASF**

By: [Delfin T. Mallari Jr.](#) - Correspondent / [@dtmallarijrINO](#)

[Inquirer Southern Luzon](#) / 01:17 PM August 13, 2024

LUCENA CITY — The provincial government of Batangas on Monday, Aug. 12, declared a state of calamity in the province due to the spread of African swine fever (ASF) and its impact on the local hog industry.

“The Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) of Batangas has approved today, August 12, 2024, the motion for the declaration of the province of Batangas under a STATE OF CALAMITY due to the effects of African Swine Fever (ASF),” the Batangas Public Information Office (PIO) reported in a post on its Facebook page.

The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (PDRRMC) led by Gov. Hermilando Mandanas recommended the declaration based on its Resolution No. 15.

This will enable the local government to use its calamity funds to assist local hog raisers.

As of Friday, Aug. 9, at least 40 barangays in Lipa City and the towns of Calatagan, Lian, Lobo, Rosario, San Juan, Talisay, and Tuy reported ASF cases, the Department of Agriculture (DA) in the Calabarzon region said.

On Aug. 6 the municipal council of Lobo declared the town under a state of calamity due to the spread of ASF and its impact on the local hog industry.

Authorities in Lobo reported that as of July 31, at least 8,818 pigs died due to ASF. The report said the outbreak resulted in market losses of about P103,338,000.

The DA announced on Friday that the target availability of 10,000 doses of ASF vaccines would arrive in the third week of August.

While waiting for the availability of ASF vaccines in the country, authorities said hog farmers should strictly implement biosecurity measures to protect hogs from infections.

The World Organization for Animal Health described ASF as “a highly contagious viral disease of domestic and wild pigs” with no available vaccine, causing a 100-percent mortality rate.

While it rarely infects humans, meat from infected pigs should not be consumed.

The Batangas PIO also reported that the declaration of the state of calamity in the province due to the widespread destruction caused by Supertyphoon Carina (international name: Gaemi) and enhanced southwest monsoon (“habagat”) last month was lifted on Monday.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1972305/batangas-province-placed-under-state-of-calamity-due-to-asf>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# PH seen to import less rice this year

By: [Jordeene B. Lagare](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 02:18 AM August 14, 2024

The Philippines is expected to slow down its importation of rice this year even if the government has reduced tariff rates on this staple food.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA), in a report, slashed its forecast on the country's overseas rice purchases by 100,000 metric tons (MT) to 4.6 million MT in 2024 due to "slowing purchases" from Vietnam, the country's leading source of imported rice. It pegged rice imports to remain at 4.6 million MT next year on the back of "stable" consumption and ending stocks as well as the projected increase in local production despite reduced import duties.

Signed by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in June, Executive Order No. 62 imposes reduced duties on various products such as rice and meat until 2028 to augment supply, manage prices and temper inflationary pressure of commodities.

For rice, a staple Filipino food, the tariff rate was slashed to 15 percent from 35 percent. The estimated volume is around 27 percent higher than the 3.6 million MT of imported rice that arrived in the previous year.

So far, the volume of imported rice that entered the archipelago reached 2.49 million MT as of Aug. 1, figures from the Bureau of Plant Industry showed.

Vietnam is still the top supplier, exporting 1.88 million MT during the period. Thailand and Pakistan delivered 358,754.74 MT and 154,523.82 MT of rice, respectively. Despite lowering its forecast, the same USDA report said the Philippines would remain the world's leading rice importer, followed by Vietnam, the European Union and Nigeria.

<https://business.inquirer.net/474677/ph-seen-to-import-less-rice-this-year>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

## **P13-B calamity funds released as of July**

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:10 AM August 14, 2024



**FLOODING.** A flooded road in Mangatarem, Pangasinan on July 26, 2024. The province recorded P247 million in initial damage to agriculture and infrastructure due to Super Typhoon Carina. —Official Facebook page of Pangasinan DRRMO

MANILA, Philippines — The government has released P13.54 billion in calamity funds as of last month to fund relief operations and repairs to infrastructure damaged by past typhoons.

Data from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) showed the government used its national disaster risk reduction and management fund, with P7.67 billion going to the Department of Public Works and Highway (DPWH) and P4.64 billion to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The DBM said that P3.5 billion was released to the DSWD to replenish the Quick Response Fund (QRF), a stand-by fund to support relief and rehabilitation efforts during calamities.

The DPWH, on the other hand, received P1 billion for its QRF, on top of P150.47 million for calamity-related projects in Pangasinan, which was damaged by three typhoons (“Egay,” “Odette” and “Kabayan”) in the past years.

The DBM has yet to release P9.2 billion out of this year’s P22.74-billion calamity budget. —*Mariedel Irish U. Catilogo*

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1972618/p13-b-calamity-funds-released-as-of-july>

**BUSINESS WORLD:**

# Oct. delivery expected for 30,000 MT of imported fish

August 13, 2024 | 8:39 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/ MICHAEL VARCAS

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said that it plans to grant permits for imports of 30,000 metric tons (MT) of fish, for October delivery.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said that the DA is set to release the import order by next week.

“It will be set for arrival by October... this is lower than the 45,000 MT from last year,” Mr. Laurel told reporters.

The Philippines typically allows fish imports during the fourth quarter, coinciding with the closed fishing season imposed in some areas to restore fish populations.

Republic Act No. 8550 or the Fisheries Code, authorizes closed seasons in certain fisheries as a conservation measure, to allow commercially significant fish species to regenerate.

Asked which fish species are to be imported, Mr. Laurel said the order will cover shipments of round scad or *galunggong*, bonito, and mackerel.

He added that the DA had initially proposed imports of 35,000 MT of fish to the National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (NFARMC).

“The NFARMC recommended 25,000 MT. So, I just decided to be on the safe side in the middle,” Mr. Laurel said.

In April, the DA issued Memorandum Order (MO) No. 17, which solicited applications to import 25,000 MT of frozen small pelagic fish for wet markets in the fourth quarter.

MO 17 allocated 80%, or 20,000 MT to commercial fishing companies, with the remaining 20%, or 5,000 MT, for award to fishing associations or cooperatives.

As of the second quarter, fisheries production fell 6.2% year on year to 1.02 million MT, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/08/13/613912/oct-delivery-expected-for-30000-mt-of-imported-fish/>



**BUSINESS WORLD:**

# Sugar harvest seen peaking late due to El Niño

August 13, 2024 | 8:37 pm



THE Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) said the height of the sugar harvest as well as milling operations will be delayed due to the impact of El Niño on the cane crop.

“We are expecting an almost two-month delay in the peak of harvest season because the cane damaged by El Niño had to be re-planted,” SRA Administrator Pablo Luis S. Azcona told reporters late Monday.

“By November we could be at our peak. Last year El Niño hit during the harvest season, which was good because harvesting conditions were dry,” he added.

During the second quarter, cane production dropped 42.3% year on year to 1.63 million metric tons (MMT), according to the Philippine Statistics Authority, making sugar the crop most affected by El Niño during the three-month period.

He expected sugarcane production to be flat “or may drop *tayo ng konti* (output could fall slightly).”

“Right now, there are three mills confirmed to be opening by Sept. 15 in Negros, and they are not hopeful about the cane supply. Others will open by Oct. 1 or 15. In Bukidnon, mills are expected to open by Nov. 15,” he said.

“Batangas... might be delayed also. So, the season will be a bit delayed,” he added.

The government weather service, known as PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration), declared the start of El Niño weather event in June last year, bringing below-normal rainfall conditions, dry spells and droughts.

El Niño ended in early June 2024, PAGASA added, but dry conditions are expected to continue.

“We had five months or more of dry conditions in Negros, where the majority of the sugar comes from. Batangas was also hit so they’re expecting a drop. Mindanao, I’m not so sure of the data yet because they had the biggest increase last year,” Mr. Azcona said.

The regulator allowed imports of 240,000 MT of refined sugar to maintain a two-month reserve to keep prices stable. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/08/13/613911/sugar-harvest-seen-peaking-late-due-to-el-nino/>

**BUSINESS WORLD:**

# PHL rice import forecast cut to 4.6 MMT — USDA

August 13, 2024 | 8:35 pm



BW FILE PHOTO

THE US Department of Agriculture (USDA) said it lowered its Philippine rice import forecast by 2.13% to 4.6 million metric tons (MMT) this year due to weaker-than-expected purchases of Vietnamese rice.

In its latest Grain: World Markets and Trade report, the USDA said it downgraded its 4.7 MMT estimate issued in July.

Rice imports have totaled 2.49 MMT as of Aug. 1, according to the Bureau of Plant Industry.

It added that global production may likely be lower due to reduced output in Myanmar, Malaysia, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

The USDA is projecting milled rice production for the Philippines of 12.3 MMT.

At a budget hearing on Monday, Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said that the Department of Agriculture (DA) is projecting rice imports of 4 MMT in 2024.

For 2025, the USDA has a Philippine rice import estimate of 4.6 MMT.

In June, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. signed Executive Order (EO) No. 62 which lowered the tariff on imported rice to 15% from 35% until 2028. The new tariff regime is subject to review every four months.

The EO is expected to reduce the retail price of rice by P6 to P7 per kilogram, according to the DA.

The USDA said that global imports are expected to decline due to reduced purchases by the Philippines and Brazil.

It added that domestic production for 2025 will come in at about 12.7 MMT in milled rice equivalent. —  
**Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/08/13/613870/phl-rice-import-forecast-cut-to-4-6-mmt-usda/>

## BUSINESS MIRROR:

# Batangas ASF outbreak: A new threat to PHL pork supply and food inflation

- BusinessMirror Editorial

• August

14,

2024



The recent outbreaks of African swine fever (ASF) in a number of areas in Batangas illustrate the challenges in eradicating the fatal hog disease that has killed thousands of pigs. The government reported that the towns of Lobo, Lian, Rosario, Calatagan and Lipa City in Batangas had ASF cases. (see *“DA plans purchase of ASF vaccines after outbreak in Batangas,” BusinessMirror, August 8, 2024*). This latest outbreak prompted the government to resort to the emergency procurement of vaccines in its bid to stop the disease on its tracks.

Among the animal diseases that have ravaged many farms in the Philippines, ASF has proven to be the most disruptive. Since it was first discovered in 2019, the disease has significantly reduced the supply of local hogs. Fewer hogs meant more expensive pork—the favorite source of protein of Filipinos—and the reduction in pork supply became one of the factors behind the acceleration of inflation.

Despite the slowdown in meat price increases in recent months after the government maintained lower tariffs for pork imports, food remained as one of the main drivers of headline inflation in July, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). PSA said in its latest report that food and non-alcoholic beverages accounted for 55.5 percent or 2.4 percentage points of the headline inflation rate of 4.4 percent in

July. Meat and the elevated prices of rice were the top drivers of the upward trend in food inflation last month.

The recent outbreaks of ASF in Batangas deal a blow to government efforts to make food prices stable. Even more concerning is that the disease is ravaging farms in a province that is considered one of the major livestock producers in the Philippines. According to the PSA, Calabarzon region, which includes Batangas, was the country's top hog producer in the first quarter.

We call on hog raisers, the private sector, and local governments to cooperate with the national government to prevent the disease from spreading to other parts of Luzon. Pending the arrival of the vaccine, which the Department of Agriculture is banking on to control ASF, local governments and farms must strictly observe biosecurity measures and other initiatives aimed at preventing the spread of the disease. Hog raisers should also immediately report any unusual mortality in their farms.

The government has made assurances that it has enough funds to fight ASF outbreaks and to indemnify affected hog raisers. We hope that the indemnification checks will be released to the hog farmers immediately as they will need the money to restock their farms, so they can recoup their losses. According to government data, the disease has killed more than three million hogs valued at billions of pesos since the first outbreak was reported in 2019.

The government recently noted that African swine fever remains a persistent virus impacting local swine production, despite rigorous biosecurity measures. Eliminating ASF demands unwavering vigilance and the strict compliance with control protocols by all stakeholders in the domestic hog industry.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/14/batangas-asf-outbreak-a-new-threat-to-phl-pork-supply-and-food-inflation/>

# Oil spills blamed for low farm-gate prices at Navotas

• Jonathan L. Mayuga

• August

13,

2024



**Fishermen bring their motor bancas to safety at the Navotas river near Manila Bay area. (ROY DOMINGO/BM)**

THE oil spills in Bataan are being blamed by fishermen and mussel farm operators in Navotas.

While the oil spills did not reach the waters off Navotas, the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), its members are now suffering from the low farmgate prices owing to the “oil spill scare.”

Pamalakaya said a similar situation is happening in the provinces of Cavite and Bataan, where fish traders taking advantage of the oil spill are pulling down price to the detriment of fishermen and mussel raisers.

Before the oil spill, the regular farmgate price of tahong (mussels) was P1,200 per fish tub (banyera), but it has dramatically dropped to P300 – P500 owing to speculations that the products are tainted with oil.

While the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has issued a public advisory against consuming fish caught in oil-spill-affected areas, particularly in Bataan, local fishers in Navotas assert that their catch do not have signs of contamination, as their produce did not come in contact with floating oil.

Ronnel Arambulo, Pamalakaya vice chairman said in a statement that there's no trace of oil affecting catch in Navotas, which also hosts the biggest fish landing in the country.

*“Bukod sa wala na naman talagang bakas ng langis sa aming pangisdaan, nakakasiguro kami na ang mga isdang nahuhuli ng mga mangingisda ay hindi nanggaling sa mga lugar na inabot ng langis,”* he said.

The fishermen's group earlier criticized the government's fishing ban as worse than the oil spill itself.

In Cavite and Bataan, most of the coastal areas have been placed under the fishing ban with “no alternative and regular support” to the affected fishermen, Pamalakaya said.

The group asked for government intervention into the “exploitation and manipulation” of fish traders on farmgate prices related to the oil spill.

He said BFAR and the Department of Health should bring back the confidence of the buying public to fish caught in Manila Bay saying there's no scientific basis to declare a fish ban. In Manila Bay, around 50,000 fishermen from Cavite, Bataan, and Metro Manila are now bearing the brunt of the aftermath of the oil spill, Pamalakaya said.

Meanwhile, Pamalakaya criticized the proposed budget for fuel assistance of BFAR, describing it as a mere “drop in the ocean” compared to the extent of impacts of the successive calamities and other economic crises on the fishing sector.

It said that of the P10.2 billion proposed budget of the BFAR in 2025, only P50 million, or 0.5 percent, will be appropriated for the Fuel Assistance to Fisherfolk Program. The group said that the government's fuel assistance program, which is



worth P3,000 each, will only cover around 16, 000 fishermen, or 0.6 percent of the more than 2.7 million registered fishermen nationwide.

Arambulo underscored that the fishing sector was battered by the successive typhoons Aghon and Carina, as well as the impacts of the southwest monsoon on fishing activities.

For his part, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) National Chair,an Danilo Ramos shared Arambulo's frustration over the proposed 2025 national budget.

Ramos said that the proposed budget for the Department of Agriculture (DA) only allocates P50 million for Fuel Assistance to Farmers, a 90 percent decrease from the P510.4 million budget for the same program this year.

Image credits: [Roy Domingo](#)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/13/oil-spills-blamed-for-low-farm-gate-prices-at-navotas/>

## **BUSINESS MIRROR:**

# **SRA expects delay in sugarcane harvest**

- Ada Pelonia
- August 13, 2024

THE Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) sees a delay in the peak of harvest as farmers had to replant and replace the sugarcanes scorched by El Niño.

“We are expecting [an] almost two-month delay in peak of harvest *kasi ang mga nasira ire-replant pa,*” SRA Administrator Pablo Luis Azcona told reporters on Monday.

Azcona explained that irrigated farms tend to record a bumper crop after the dry spell. However, the problem stems from the lack of irrigated farmlands.

“It’s a good crop after El Niño. *Ang problema po natin is* about maybe only 10 to a maximum of 12 to 15 percent *lang po iyong irrigated sa buong Pilipinas,*” he said, expecting improvements in these irrigated areas.

The SRA chief said top sugar-producing areas like Negros and Batangas suffered the brunt of the weather phenomenon.

“We had...I think five months or more of *talagang tuyo sa* Negros where the majority of the sugar comes from. *Natamaan din ang* Batangas so they’re expecting a drop [in production],” he said.

Despite this, Azcona said he remains optimistic that the harvest will begin to peak by November.

He also expressed concern over the supply of refined sugar as he expects a “slow start” in the milling season.

“Even though we all agree *na meron tayong* refined sugar until December 10 or December 15, *ang problema po natin saan po tayo kukuha ng* refined sugar?”

“We’re expecting a slow start. *Iyong* September, October, November milling *po natin medyo mahina.*”

He explained that three mills will open in Negros on September 15, but noted that “they are not hopeful of the cane supply as well” and would only open “for the sake of opening.”

Figures from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed that the country’s farm output decreased by 3.3 percent in the second quarter as El Niño ravaged farmlands.

Crop production, which amounted to P220.04 billion, declined annually by 8.6 percent, with the value of sugarcane production posting a 42.3 percent decline.

Meanwhile, the SRA recently authorized the importation of 240,000 metric tons (MT) of refined sugar to beef up domestic supply. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/12/sra-clears-240k-mt-sugar-imports-to-boost-local-supply/>)

Under Sugar Order (SO) 5, eligible participants for the importation program have been split into two. A maximum volume of 176,500 MT of refined sugar would be eligible for importers qualified under SO 2, while 63,500 MT would be eligible for those qualified under SO 3.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/13/sra-expects-delay-in-sugarcane-harvest/>

**BUSINESS MIRROR:**

# USDA lowers estimate of PHL 2024 rice imports

- Ada Pelonia

• August

13,

2024



- Assorted varieties of rice are on display at the San Andres public market in Manila in this BusinessMirror file photo.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) adjusted downward its estimate of the Philippines's rice imports this year on the back of slowing purchases of Vietnam rice.

In its latest report, the USDA said that the country's rice imports this year could reach 4.6 million metric tons (MMT), lower than its previous forecast of 4.7 million metric tons (MMT).

The latest projection, however, is higher than the actual purchases of 3.61 MMT made last year.

“With the price quote spread narrowing, Vietnam jumped \$7 to \$559 per ton, while Thai increased slightly by \$2 to \$573 per ton with only limited demand from Indonesia and the Philippines,” the USDA report read.

The agency also lowered its estimates for global production this year driven by reduced production in Myanmar (Burma), Malaysia, Vietnam, and the Philippines “more than offsetting an improved Brazil crop.”

“Ending stocks are down with reduced supplies in Vietnam, the Philippines, and Kenya,” it read.

Meanwhile, the USDA also reduced the projection of the Philippines’s rice imports in 2025 to 4.6 MMT, lower than its previous forecast of 4.7 MMT.

The agency noted “consumption and ending stocks steady, local production up despite reduced import duties” as the reason behind the drop in the country’s rice import forecast.

“Imports are forecast down led by reductions in the Philippines and Brazil,” it read.

“Global consumption is forecast down slightly based on reductions in the Philippines, Kenya, and Vietnam.”

Figures from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) showed that rice import arrivals have reached 2.49 MMT as of August 1.

More than 1.87 MMT of rice imports from the reference period came from Vietnam, which remained as the country’s top source of imported rice. This was followed by Thailand at 358,754.74 metric tons (MT).

BPI data showed that the Philippines also imported rice from other countries like Pakistan (154,523.82 MT), Myanmar (66,640 MT), and India (21,651.14 MT).

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/13/usda-lowers-estimate-of-phl-2024-rice-imports/>

**BUSINESS MIRROR:**

# With rising prices, time to update food bundle–Neda

- Cai U. Ordinario



- August 14, 2024

- **Balisacan**

THE National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) considers it time to update the country's food bundle used to compute food thresholds needed in determining whether a person is poor or not.

In the Senate budget hearing on Tuesday, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan said 2010 was the last time the basket was updated by agencies such as the Department of Health (DOH) and the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI).

He admitted that the basket may no longer reflect the preferences of Filipinos as well as the latest cost of goods, especially rice which has posted an inflation of above 20 percent every month since January 2024 optimizedTruvidfullScreen

“The basket has not been changed for some time, although the value of that basket has been adjusted for inflation,” Balisacan said. “Preferences could have changed already, the relative prices have changed, we have seen how it is in the price of rice, inflation there has been over 20 percent.”

Based on the existing national food and non-food bundle, Balisacan said a family of five needs P13,795. This translates to P2,759 monthly per person which translates to P91 per person per day.

For the food threshold, using just the national food bundle, a family of five needs P9,581 per month in 2023. This translates to P64 per day per person or around P21.33 per meal.

National Statistician Claire Dennis S. Mapa told BusinessMirror that the computation of the food threshold only considered “least cost” items.

This could mean that carinderia prices that are often encountered by working Filipinos, especially in urban areas, may not be considered given that these have a “service component” and not just the cost of the food.

“But the items satisfy the energy and nutrient requirements [showing that] the menu [reflects the] energy and nutrients required [for healthy diets] was prepared by nutritionists from the FNRI and the PSA provide the costs,” Mapa told this newspaper.

Earlier, the adjustment in electricity rates as well as higher meat prices led to faster inflation in July, according to the latest data released by the PSA.

PSA data showed inflation reached 4.4 percent in July 2024. This is faster than the 3.7 percent posted in June but slower than the 4.7 percent in July 2023.

The latest inflation print breached the Development Budget Coordination Committee’s (DBCC) 3 to 4 percent inflation target for the year.

However, it was within the inflation expectations of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), of between 4 and 4.8 percent. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/06/inflation-surge-in-july-due-to-power-adjustment-higher-cost-of-meat-psa/>)

Last month, Filipino economists said despite the decline in poverty incidence rate in 2023, the government must still put in place economic programs that will lift “chronically poor” Filipinos out of poverty, as nearly 5 million Filipinos still cannot afford their basic food needs amid rising rice inflation.

Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) data showed 4.84 million Filipinos were living below the food thresholds in 2023. Among the population, this is around 4.3 percent while the proportion of Filipino families whose incomes were not sufficient to meet their basic food requirements in 2023 stood at 2.7 percent or equivalent to 740,000 families.

At the individual level, poverty incidence was at 15.5 percent, meaning, about 17.54 million Filipinos were poor in 2023, lower than the 18.1 percent or about 19.99 million Filipinos poor in 2021.

Poverty incidence is the proportion of Filipino families with incomes that are not sufficient to buy minimum basic food and non-food needs as estimated by the poverty threshold, PSA explained. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/23/poverty-rate-down-but-poor-pinoys-face-risks-experts/>)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/14/with-rising-prices-time-to-update-food-bundle-neda/>



**BUSINESS MIRROR:**

## **30,000 metric tons of fish imports eyed**

- Ada Pelonia
- August 14, 2024



- **Department of Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.**

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) is set to authorize the importation of 30,000 metric tons (MT) of pelagic fish next week in anticipation of the closed fishing season.

“Maybe next week we can issue the importation order. That’s for arrival in October,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. told reporters in a mix of English in Filipino.

“This includes galunggong, mackerel, bonito—the ones caught by commercial fishers.” According to Laurel, they sought for the National Fisheries And Aquatic Resources Management Council’s (NFARMC) approval of 35,000 MT of fish imports that will arrive in the country.

“What we asked from NFARMC is actually 35,000 [MT]. But the national NFARMC recommended 25,000 [MT]. I just decided na to be on the safe side in the middle,” he said, partly in Filipino.

The DA chief was asked by Kabataan Rep. Raoul Manuel about the volume of imported fish at the budget hearing of the Committee on Appropriations on Monday.

“The new CNI [Certificate of Necessity to Import] that will be released in [Fisheries Administrative Order] 259 is 30,000 tons,” Laurel said in Filipino.

He noted the problem with “depleted fishing grounds” when asked about the need to import if the volume of local production reached millions in the previous year.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed the total volume of fisheries production reached 4.26 million metric tons (MMT) in 2023.

“Previous administrators have implemented a closed season for three months of every year when no commercial fishing is allowed,” Laurel said.

“If we banned the fishing, there will surely be a shortage; there’s a need to import,” he added.

The DA earlier said the three-month closed fishing season starts November 1 in waters northeast of Palawan and from November 15 in the Visayan Seas and Zamboanga Peninsula. All three areas are spawning grounds for small pelagic fishes like sardines and mackerel.

He said the imports only need to fill the gap to be created from the ban, just so “our fishing grounds can recover.” Once the fishing grounds recover, he added, “maybe after a few more years, there would be no need to import or perhaps we can reduce importation.”

Meanwhile, the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) recently said the fish unloaded in the country’s regional ports jumped by more than 50 percent year-on-year in the second quarter. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/31/fish-unloaded-in-regional-ports-up-50-in-q2-pfda/>)

In its quarterly bulletin, the agency said the RFPs delivered 186,557.96 metric tons (MT) to consumers from the April to June period—a 54.10-percent increase from the 121,062.55 MT recorded in the same period last year.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/14/30000-metric-tons-of-fish-imports-eyed/>

# **DA: No need to declare state of calamity due to ASF**

By

Jed Macapagal

-

August 14, 2024



The Department of Agriculture (DA) dismissed suggestions to declare a state of national calamity in response to the recent surge in African swine fever (ASF) infections.

DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said on the sidelines of the agency's budget hearing at the House of Representatives on Monday enhanced border controls, an emergency inoculation program and increased indemnification measures should suffice in managing the outbreak effectively.

Tiu Laurel said the current ASF situation would not disrupt pork supply or drive up prices unlike in 2019 when initial response

involved extensive lockdowns of entire towns.

The DA said its new strategy in containing ASF focuses on isolating only those farms that test positive for the disease. It is also setting up livestock checkpoints to prevent the transport of diseased animals suspected to have abetted the latest spread of ASF.

The agency said the immediate purchase of 10,000 doses of ASF vaccines for emergency inoculation in affected areas will also help mitigate the impact on the hog industry of the latest infection surge.

On top of this, there will be a national controlled trial of the vaccine where 600,000 doses will be used in areas with active ASF cases. This will be implemented beginning the last quarter of the year.

Tiu Laurel said the DA also increased indemnification for farmers who surrender infected pigs, with compensation significantly raised from a maximum of P5,000 to P12,000 per pig to encourage hog raisers to report and cull diseased animals instead of selling them.

The DA said its hog repopulation program has also helped minimize the impact of ASF on the swine industry's output based on latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority.

It noted importation of pork is expected to stabilize supply and prices of meat products despite the current spread of the disease.

Tiu Laurel said P150 million is readily available for ASF response, including funds for purchasing vaccines and supporting the increased indemnification program.

Data from the Bureau of Animal Industry showed that as of August 8, active cases of ASF in the country are contained in 11 regions, 22 provinces, 64 municipalities and 251 barangays.

Based on DA's monitoring of public markets in the National Capital Region, prevailing retail price as of Monday ranges from P290 to P370 per kg for kasim and from P330 to P420 per kg for liempo.

[https://malaya.com.ph/news\\_business/da-no-need-to-declare-state-of-calamity-due-to-asf/](https://malaya.com.ph/news_business/da-no-need-to-declare-state-of-calamity-due-to-asf/)

THE MANILA TIMES:

## Others thrive off PH's agri misery



[By Marlen Ronquillo](#)

August 14, 2024

THE news report, which said that pork exports from Brazil to the Philippines would henceforth be faster and better coordinated, was not given the full context it deserved. The news report merely said that our country is now the second biggest market for Brazilian pork, and the pork exporters there are anticipating an expanding, thriving market. (That is on top of the already substantial beef exports of Brazil to the Philippines.) And the basis of the pork exporters' enthusiasm? From the January to June 2023 pork exports that totaled 50,922 metric tons (MT), the January to June 2024 shipments to the Philippines were recorded at 84,279 MT, a more than 60 percent jump.

**That figure was also 14 percent of Brazil's pork exports for the first semester of 2024.**

Left unsaid is a fact of life in the global pork industry, an industry committed to serious data gathering on things and issues that matter to the industry: that the Philippine pork industry, which was once the eighth biggest in the world, has yet to recover from the brutal impact of the African swine fever (ASF) despite the swift rebound of the 11 other countries that were first hit hard by the ASF before its introduction to the Philippines. From China to Bhutan to the former countries of the Soviet Union, the pork industry managed to control the ASF through science and vaccines. Here, ASF spread, not ASF containment, remains the embarrassing reality.



The Philippine pork industry is still hopelessly battling the seemingly unconquerable ASF through the most inconsequential tools that it can deploy: press releases, big talk and misplaced official optimism that the scourge will soon be over and a day of swine deliverance will pop out at the end of a dark tunnel. (The hard copies of the optimistic press releases can fill one 20-ft container van.)

But we all know that only modern animal health science practices and vaccines, not official optimism and press releases, will end the ASF misery. And that same incompetence and cluelessness in battling the ASF scourge is an incentive to the likes of meat-exporting Brazil to exploit the big potentials of the Philippine pork market.

Reportage without context often leaves the impression that Brazil's increasing pork exports to the Philippines are part of the routine occurrences in the global meat trade. No, it is not. As earlier stated, Brazil is filling a void whose origin story is our decimated hog farms, which in turn was caused by the failure of our agricultural authorities to rein in the ASF epidemic, which is currently wiping out pig farms across the country. China's hog industry was a question mark after the ASF ravaged farms across China in 2019. By late 2020, China's agricultural authorities reported near full recovery.

Our agricultural mandarins recently laid out an optimistic scenario. By the last quarter of 2024 vaccines — finally — will be tested on surviving hog farms to test the vaccines' efficacy and potency. Most

probably these will be the two vaccines that had been developed by Vietnam.

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Ah, Vietnam.

Vietnam, if you know a little about history, ended its anti-imperialist wars only in 1975, 30 years after the declaration of the Philippine Republic. After 1975, it started the tough, grueling task of unifying the South with the North to be one country. TV documentaries declared the bombed-out Vietnam as a "graveyard of lost hopes."

Now, it is one of the most economically dynamic countries in Asia, attracting three to four times our yearly foreign direct investment. As global industrial and technology giants are reconfiguring their supply chains to lessen their dependence on China-based assembly and production, the two top relocation areas are India and Vietnam.

And Vietnam vaccines, which will provide life support to our battered hog farms, represent just an insignificant slice of our dependence on Vietnam, food-wise. We all know this: Vietnam has been the biggest and the most steady supplier of rice, our basic staple.

After the Duterte administration pushed the subservient Congress to pass the Rice Tariff Law (RTL) in early 2019 and end the regime of quantitative restriction (QR) on rice, the orgy of reckless, greed-driven rice importation started. In just 10 months of 2019, a historic 3.1 MT of rice was imported, a figure that also made us the top rice importer in the world. And of that 3.1 million MT, around 2.7 million came from Vietnamese ports.

Every year without fail since the RTL was implemented in 2019, Vietnam has been our biggest rice supplier. No Asian country even comes close when it comes to the Philippine rice supply. When it comes to pork, Brazil is just filling part of the supply void. When it comes to rice, Vietnamese rice farmers are literally feeding millions of rice-short Filipinos. And we are begging the Vietnamese rice farmers to supply us with more rice.

Our dependence on other countries for food is by now a familiar story. That dependence will further intensify in the years to come as the institutions of Philippine agriculture have been on the trajectory of continuous regression.

The latest news from the agri front was another heartbreaker. We are losing our status as the second biggest supplier of bananas to the world. For the third quarter of 2014, another big drop in agricultural productivity was reported — the never-ending, never-changing story of the agri sector's slide to utter mediocrity.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/08/14/opinion/columns/others-thrive-off-phis-agri-misery/1964024>



**THE MANILA TIMES:**

## **No ASF state of national calamity – DA**

[By Janine Alexis Miguel](#)

August 14, 2024

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said it would not be declaring a state of national calamity despite a surge in African swine fever (ASF) cases.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said enhanced border controls and emergency inoculation programs were enough to manage the outbreak. He also assured that the situation would not affect pork supply or increase prices.

"Unlike the initial response to ASF in 2019, which involved extensive lockdowns of entire towns, the new strategy focuses on isolating only those farms that test positive for the disease," the DA said in a statement on Tuesday.

The agency earlier announced that it was setting up checkpoints to prevent transport of animals suspected to have ASF.

Other measures include the immediate purchase of 10,000 vaccine doses for emergency inoculations and increased indemnification for farmers who surrender infected pigs to mitigate the impact on the hog industry.

Compensation has been raised from P5,000 to P12,000 per pig to encourage hog raisers to report and cull diseased animals instead of selling them.

Last July, the Food and Drug and Administration approved the regulated use of a vaccine against ASF. In line with this, the Bureau of Animal Industry will use 600,000 doses in areas with active cases.

The DA is also implementing a hog repopulation program to help minimize the impact of ASF on the swine industry's output.

"A liberalized regime on the import of pork is also expected to stabilize supply and prices of meat products despite the ASF scare," it said.

Tiu Laurel said P150 million was available for the ASF response, including funds for purchasing vaccines and supporting the indemnification program.

Following concerns over the condition of procured vaccines, Agriculture Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa assured the public that the government would not be accepting expired vaccines.

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"Both for the emergency purchase and for the regular procurement will be new doses coming in and will have a validity for another two years," he added.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/08/14/business/top-business/no-asf-state-of-national-calamity-da/1964067>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# **USDA lowers rice import forecast as purchases slow**

[By Janine Alexis Miguel](#)

August 14, 2024

THE Philippines could import less rice this year as its purchases of the commodity have slowed, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) said.

In a monthly report, the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service projected the Philippines' rice import volume to reach 4.6 million metric tons (MT) in 2024, down from the previous forecast of 4.7 million MT, due to "slowing purchases of Vietnam rice."

Despite this, the country still ranked as the world's top rice importer. Vietnam followed with an estimated 2.9 million MT of rice imports and the European Union with 2.2 million MT.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has said that the country's rice imports were unlikely to reach the USDA's earlier projection and that that the 4.7 million MT might be a bit high and could be "the worst-case scenario."

Data from the Bureau of Plant Industry showed that rice deliveries to the Philippines totaled 2.4 million MT as of end-July, up by 18.8 percent from 2.02 million, MT recorded in the same months in 2023.

Vietnam remained the country's top source of the staple during the period, shipping 1.8 million MT of rice or around 74 percent of the total imports.

Thailand delivered some 358,727 MT of rice, Pakistan followed with 154,523 MT, and some 66,640 MT from Myanmar.

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The remaining volume, meanwhile, came from India, China, Japan, Cambodia, Italy and Spain.

Last year, inbound shipments of the staple totaled 3.6 million MT, down 5.9 percent from the record high 3.82 million MT logged in 2022. For this year, the DA expects rice imports to not exceed last year's volume.

Global rice imports are forecast to go down to 54.13 million MT "led by reductions in the Philippines and Brazil," to USDA said.

Rice production was projected to go down due to lower output by rice-producing countries.

"Global production is estimated lower this month on reduced production in Burma, Malaysia, Vietnam, and the Philippines more than offsetting an improved Brazil crop," the US agency said.

Domestic milled rice production is expected to increase to 12.7 million MT despite reduced import duties compared to last year's 12.3 million MT.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority showed that production of palay (unmilled rice) from January to June reached 8.53 million MT, down 5.5 percent from the 9.026 million MT recorded a year earlier.

The USDA also noted that the country's consumption and ending stocks could remain steady at 17.3 million MT and 3.6 million MT, respectively.

Rice consumption globally was projected to decrease "based on reductions in the Philippines, Kenya, and Vietnam."

As for rice prices, the USDA said that major Asian exporters experienced a narrowing of their price quote spread as market volatility had subsided.

Vietnam's prices jumped \$7 to \$559 per ton while Thailand's increased slightly by \$2 to \$573 per ton with only limited demand from Indonesia and the Philippines.

Pakistani rice prices, meanwhile, fell \$33 to \$555 per ton due to slowing demand.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/08/14/business/top-business/usda-lowers-rice-import-forecast-as-purchases-slow/1964069>

**MANILA STANDARD:**

# Cavite fish ‘still not safe for human consumption’ — BFAR

NewsNational



By Manila Standard

**August 14, 2024, 12:25 am**

The Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) on Tuesday released a bulletin informing the public about the safety for human consumption of fish caught in areas potentially affected by the recent oil spill in Limay, Bataan.

The bureau has been monitoring and assessing these fishing areas and communities surrounding the Manila Bay on-ground.

Specifically, it is regularly collecting and analyzing fish samples for traces of oil, grease, and harmful contaminants called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH).

“In the province of Cavite, fish and shellfish samples collected are still not safe for human consumption based on sensory evaluation,” the bulletin read.

“Based on the stated results, the public is therefore informed that fish from Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga, Batangas, and Metro Manila (Navotas, Parañaque, and Las Piñas) are safe for human consumption,” it added.

Meanwhile, BFAR will continue fish-sampling and conducting sensory evaluation to determine the presence of oil and grease in potentially affected areas.

<https://www.manilastandard.net/news/top-stories/314483588/cavite-fish-still-not-safe-for-human-consumption-bfar.html>

**ABANTE TONITE:**

## **Agri babayaran ng P12K iteteging baboy na may ASF**

- Abante Tonite
- August 13, 2024



Itinaas ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. ang indemnification sa mga may alagang baboy na tinamaan ng African Swine Fever (ASF) sa hanggang P12,000 kada baboy mula sa P5,000 para mahikayat ang mga taong mag-report sa Department of Agriculture (DA).

Aniya, mas madaling mapipigil ang pagkalat ng sakit kung naire-report ito agad sa DA at mabayaran ang mga may alagang baboy na may sakit. Sa ganitong paraan, hindi na maibibiyahen at mabebenta pa ang mga baboy na may sakit at nang hindi na kumalat pa ang ASF.

Sabi ni Laurel, P150 milyon ang pondo ng DA para sa pagtugon sa ASF na magagamit sa pagbili ng bakuna o pambayad sa magsasakang may baboy na may ASF.

Tinanggihan ng DA ang panawagang magdeklara ng state of national calamity dahil sa ASF na nananalanta ngayon sa mga babuyan sa Batangas.

Sabi ni pa Laurel, sapat na ang paglalagay ng mga checkpoints, pagbabakuna, at ang pagbabayad sa mga magbababoy sa mga alaga nilang papatayin at susunugin para hindi na kumalat ang ASF. Ikinaila rin ng kalihim na magmamahal ang baboy sa palengke at magkaka-shortage nito.

Hindi tulad sa nangyari noong 2019 na malawakang lockdown ng buong mga bayan ang ginawa, tanging ang mga farms na apektado lamang ang tutukan ng DA at ito lamang ang paghihigpitan nito para hindi mailabas sa lugar ang mga baboy na may sakit. (Eileen Mencias)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/08/13/agri-babayaran-ng-p12k-iteteging-baboy-na-may-asf/>



**REMATE:**

# Pagdedeklara ng state of emergency sa ASF outbreak tablado sa DA

August 13, 2024 19:30



MANILA, Philippines- Tutol ang Department of Agriculture (DA) sa mga mungkahi na ideklara ang state of emergency bilang tugon sa pagtaas ng mga impeksyon ng African Swine Fever (ASF).

Ayon kay Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr. sa ngayon ay sapat na ang pinahusay na mga border control, ang ikinasang inoculation program at ang pagdaragdag sa pagbabayad sa mga na-cull na mga baboy.

Kaugnay nito, tiniyak ni Sec. Tiu Laurel na ang kasalukuyang sitwasyon ng ASF ay hindi magdudulot ng pagkukulang sa suplay o pagtaas sa presyo ng karne ng baboy.

Nabatid pa sa DA, hindi tulad ng unang tugon sa ASF noong 2019, na kinakailangang magpatupad ng malawakang pag-lockdown ng buong mga bayan, sa ilalim ng bagong diskarte ay tututok lang muna sa paghiwalay lamang sa hog farms na nagpositibo sa sakit.

Una nang naglatag ang DA ng mga checkpoint upang mapigilan ang transportasyon ng mga may sakit na hayop.

Gayundin, kagyat na bumili ng 10,000 doses ng mga bakuna kontra ASF para sa emergency inoculation sa mga apektadong lugar. **Santi Celario**

<https://remate.ph/pagdedeklara-ng-state-of-emergency-sa-asf-outbreak-tablado-sa-da/>

**REMATE:**

## **Presyo ng kamatis bagsak-presyo mula Hulyo**

August 13, 2024 18:00



MANILA, Philippines- Mula sa P200 kada kilo noong nakaraang buwan, bumaba ang presyo ng kamatis hanggang P80 kada kilo.

Dahil dito, ilang magsasaka sa Nueva Vizcaya ang naiulat na itinatapon ang kanilang aning kamatis.

Sinabi ni Department of Agriculture (DA) Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa na nakikipag-ugnayan na sila sa kanilang regional field offices sa Cordillera Administrative Region at Cagayan Valley upang suriin ang naiulat na surplus.

“Either ibigay sa Kadiwa (stores) or dalhin dito sa Metro Manila, tulungan doon sa mga trucking para makarating dito,” pahayag ni De Mesa.

Batay sa pinakabagong monitoring ng DA, pumapalo ang presyo ng kamatis sa P80 hanggang P120 kada kilo.

Upang maiwasan ang malaking surplus sa vegetable harvest, sinisilip ng DA ang ilang lugar bilang lokasyon ng agricultural infrastructures.

“Doon sa mga lugar na mga key production area, magkaroon ng tamang post-harvest and cold storages kasi those cold storages will prolong the life,” anang opisyal.

“Kasi kung wala ‘yan, in a matter of days mahihinog agad, walang magawa farmer but to dispose it at a very low price,” dagdag ni De Mesa. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/presyo-ng-kamatis-bagsak-presyo-mula-hulyo/>

**REMATE:**

# **Batangas isinailalim sa state of calamity sa ASF**

August 13, 2024 17:48



LUCENA CITY- Nagdeklara ang provincial government ng Batangas noong Lunes ng state of calamity sa lalawigan dahil sa pagkalat ng African swine fever (ASF) at epekto nito sa local hog industry.

“The Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) of Batangas has approved today, August 12, 2024, the motion for the declaration of the province of Batangas under a STATE OF CALAMITY due to the effects of African Swine Fever (ASF),” pahayag ng Batangas Public Information Office (PIO) sa post nito sa Facebook page.

Inirekomenda ng Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (PDRRMC) sa pangunguna ni Gov. Hermilando Mandanas ang rekomendasyon batay sa Resolution No. 15.

Bibigyang-daan nito na magamit ng lokal na pamahalaan ang calamity funds nito upang asistihan ang local hog raisers.

Hanggang noong Agosto 9, hindi bababa sa 40 barangay sa Lipa City at mga bayan ng Calatagan, Lian, Lobo, Rosario, San Juan, Talisay, at Tuy ang nakapag-ulat ng ASF cases, base sa Department of Agriculture (DA) sa Calabarzon region. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/batangas-isinailalim-sa-state-of-calamity-sa-asf/>

**REMATE:**

# Higit P300B kinalos sa panukalang budget ng DA

August 13, 2024 11:50



Ang Department of Budget and Management (DBM) ay nagbigay lamang ng P200 bilyon mula sa P513 bilyong hiniling na badyet ng Department of Agriculture (DA) para sa 2025, sinabi ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu-Laurel Jr.

“It is unfortunate na ‘yung request natin na P500 billion ay naging P200 billion. I guess, it all boils down sa kung ano ang kaya ng ating gobyerno na i-provide,” ani Tiu-Laurel budget deliberations ng DA sa House Appropriations panel.

“But of course, manghihingi pa kami ng kaunting dagdag sa [bicameral conference], before the end of the year,” dagdag pa ng DA chief.

Para sa 2024, nakakuha ang DA ng P213 bilyon batay sa General Appropriations Act.

Pinuna ni Agri party-list Representative Wilbert Lee ang pagbawas sa badyet, at sinabing hindi ito alinsunod sa panata ni Pangulong Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. na unahin ang sektor ng agrikultura.

“Seryoso ba tayo dito? Paano natin ibababa ang presyo ng mga bilihin, mga bilihin kung hindi tayo maglalaan ng sapat na pondo para sa sektor ng agrikultura? Nais din nating madagdagan ang ating produksyon ng pagkain, ngunit nabawasan ang badyet. Para tayong naglolokohan lang. Dapat ibigay yung ni-request ng ahensya, at gastusin nang tama,” ani Lee. *RNT*

<https://remate.ph/higit-p300b-kinalos-sa-panukalang-budget-ng-da/>

**REMATE:**

## **Pinas aangkat ng 240K MT ng asukal**

August 13, 2024 08:51



MANILA – Inanunsyo ng Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) ang pag-aangkat ng 240,000 metric tons (MT) ng refined sugar para matiyak ang matatag na presyo ng retail sa mga lokal na pamilihan.

“Sisiguraduhin ng import na ito na lagi nating pananatilihin ang buffer na iyon para matiyak na ang kasalukuyang stable retail price sa refined sugar ay napanatili para sa consumer, at ang ating mga magsasaka, kung saan 85 percent ay mga land reform beneficiaries, ay may patas at stable din na presyo,” ani SRA chief Pablo Luis Azcona.

Ginawa ni Azcona ang pahayag kasunod ng pag-apruba sa Sugar Order (SO) No. 5 noong Agosto 8, na siyang unang sugar import program para sa 2024-2025 crop year.

“Ang layunin ng programang ito sa pag-import ng asukal ay upang matiyak na sa kabila ng inaasahang masamang epekto ng El Niño, ang bansa ay patuloy na magkakaroon ng sapat na aktwal na suplay ng asukal para sa domestic consumption at para sa buffer stock,” saad sa kautusan.



Sa 240,000 MT na aangkat, isang 176,500 MT na maximum volume ang ilalaan para sa mga karapat-dapat na importer na unang sumuporta o bumili mula sa mga lokal na magsasaka, ayon sa SO No. 2; habang ang 63,500 MT ay para sa muling pagdadagdag ng mga eksport ng asukal sa Estados Unidos batay sa SO No. 3.

Ang mga pag-import ng asukal ay inaasahang darating bandang Setyembre 15 upang masakop ang agwat bago ang panahon ng paggiling sa Oktubre.

Samantala, tiniyak ni Azcona ang sapat na stock ng asukal sa bansa, isinasaalang-alang ang dalawang buwang buffer stock.

Nitong Hulyo 21, ang bansa ay may humigit-kumulang 326,819 MT ng pisikal na stock ng asukal at 396,339.10 MT ng refined sugar stock, ayon sa SRA. *RNT*

<https://remate.ph/pinas-aangkat-ng-240k-mt-ng-asukal/>

**PEOPLE'S JOURNAL:**

## **SEARCA chief named 2024 Outstanding Professional in Agriculture**

Tuesday, August 13, 2024 SEARCA



**PASAY CITY** — Dr. Glenn Gregorio, Director of the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), has been recognized as the 2024 Outstanding Professional of the Year in Agriculture by the Philippine Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), a testament to his significant contributions to agricultural innovation. Held on August 2, 2024 at Conrad Manila, the award ceremony honored 33 professionals across various fields, with Gregorio distinguished among eight awardees in the technology cluster. His expertise and leadership have made a profound impact on agriculture, not just in the Philippines but across Asia and Africa.

Beyond being the chief executive of SEARCA, Gregorio has held significant roles in the agricultural sector. Over his nearly three-decade career, he has made groundbreaking advances in rice breeding at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), developing over 20 rice varieties, many of which are salt-tolerant and have been adopted in multiple countries. He also served as global crop breeding manager at East-West Seed Company, where he led breeding programs in South and Southeast Asia, Latin America, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

His contributions to the field of agriculture have earned him numerous accolades, including The Outstanding Young Men and Outstanding Young Scientist awards and Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh Medal Award. In 2018, he became an Academician at the National Academy of Science

and Technology of the Philippines. In 2021, he was appointed as a United Nations Food Systems Champion.

Currently, Gregorio serves as an Adjunct Professor at the University of the Philippines Los Baños Institute of Crop Science and Central Mindanao University. He is also the outgoing president of the Society for the Advancement of Breeding Research in Asia and Oceania (SABRAO) after a four-year term.

The PRC's 2024 Outstanding Professional Awards, organized in collaboration with the Foundation of the Outstanding Professionals Inc. (FOPI), celebrated professionals who demonstrate integrity, competence, and innovation in their fields. This year's theme, "Bagong Pilipinas: Pagpupugay sa Makabago at Mapanlikhang Propesyonal ng Bayan," emphasized the importance of professional excellence in nation-building.

"As agriculturists, we must be ready to commit ourselves to enhancing the agricultural value chain—for our farmers' comfort and our consumers' well-being," Gregorio said.

Gregorio's recognition is not just a personal achievement but also a reflection of SEARCA's role in promoting agricultural innovation in Southeast Asia. His leadership continues to inspire innovation and excellence in the region's agricultural sector.

<https://journal.com.ph/searca-chief-named-2024-outstanding-professional-in-agriculture/>