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### I. ABANTE:

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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# 22 new technologies for agriculture and fisheries unveiled in Clark

**BY JUNEP OCAMPO & MANILA BULLETIN AGRICULTURE**

Aug 18, 2024 05:27 PM

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CLARK FREEPORT ZONE, Pampanga—Twenty-two cutting-edge technologies poised to revolutionize the Philippine agriculture, aquatic, and natural resources (AANR) sectors were introduced in the 2024 Agri-Aqua Pitch Fest at the Royce Hotel here on August 16, 2024..

The 22 technologies, grouped into four categories—Agri-Aqua Inputs and Products, Food Products, Agricultural/Aquatic Equipment and Machinery, and Other Agri-Aqua Technologies—underscore the critical role of innovation in advancing the AANR sectors. These innovations range from eco-friendly biopesticides and sustainable fertilizers to high-tech aquaculture equipment and nutritious food products designed to meet the evolving demands of consumers and producers alike.



One of the highlights in the Agri-Aqua Inputs and Products category was a biopesticide developed by the Aurora State College of Technology (ASCOT). Derived from the Boton seed of the fish poison tree (*Barringtonia asiatica*), this biopesticide offers an environmentally safe alternative to chemical pesticides, ideal for use in rice paddies and vegetable gardens. Complementing this was a nightsoil fertilizer from Western Mindanao State University (WMSU), which utilizes human waste, molasses, and carbonized rice hulls to create a cost-effective and sustainable fertilizer, significantly reducing farmers' reliance on expensive chemical inputs.



## PIONEERING SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTS

The Food Products category featured innovations aimed at improving nutrition and food security. Among them was the smoked pork granules from Benguet State University (BSU), made from the native pig breed of the Cordillera region. This product, with its unique flavor

and extended shelf life, is expected to gain traction in both local and international markets. Central Luzon State University (CLSU) introduced Mush Aroy Nutrichips, a nutritious snack made from mushrooms, seaweeds, and malunggay, designed to bolster the nutritional content of disaster relief packages and feeding programs.



## MECHANIZING AGRICULTURE

Innovations in the Agricultural/Aquatic Equipment and Machinery category emphasized the importance of mechanization in enhancing efficiency and productivity. Noteworthy was the Pili Postharvest Machines from Bicol University (BU), which automate the processing of Pili nuts, a high-value crop in the Bicol Region. Additionally, the Self-Navigating Solar-Powered Aerator for Aquaculture from Southern Leyte State University (SLSU) exemplifies the potential of renewable energy in aquaculture, utilizing solar power to maintain optimal oxygen levels in fish ponds, thereby improving fish health and reducing environmental impact.



## PROMOTING HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

In the Other Agri-Aqua Technologies category, the Portable Spectrophotometer developed by the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) stood out for its ability



to monitor bacterial load in water samples, offering a cost-effective solution for ensuring water quality in aquaculture systems. The Pagbangon Tea project from Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU) introduced a healthy beverage made from mangosteen, pandan, and lemongrass, catering to the growing demand for functional beverages that promote health and wellness.



## RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

The event also celebrated excellence through competitions for the Best Pitch and Best Poster. Caraga State University (CSU) took first place in the Best Pitch category with their Sago Pith Extracting process, which enhances the efficiency of extracting sago starch from palm trees. Bohol Island State University (BISU) earned second place with their Cogon Leather project, a sustainable alternative to traditional leather, while Bicol University (BU) secured third place with their Pili Postharvest Machines.

In the Best Poster competition, BISU's Bioleather project took top honors for its comprehensive presentation, followed by the Philippine Carabao Center's Buro Booster, and Pampanga State Agricultural University's Mightibig project, a natural meat tenderizer made from Tibig leaf extract.

The Agri-Aqua Innovation Pitch Fest highlighted the power of science and technology in transforming the the agriculture and aquatic sectors.



DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum encouraged the participants to "Change the future, one innovative pitch at a time." He said the DOST continues to deliver on its mandate to promote innovation in all aspects of life, especially agriculture. "We want science to work for the farmers and for the common Filipino people," he said.

With nearly 500 participants and thousands of online viewers, the event highlighted the growing enthusiasm and interest in these innovations, which hold the potential to secure the future of Philippine agriculture amidst the challenges of climate change, population growth, and global competition.

Hosted by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD), in collaboration with the Pampanga State Agricultural University (PSAU) and the Association of PAQE Professionals (APP), the event showcased a wide array of advancements that promise to address critical challenges in the sector, boost sustainability, and enhance food security in the nation.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/18/22-new-technologies-for-agriculture-and-fisheries-unveiled-in-clark>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Entrepreneurs in Valenzuela City get free mentoring from Go Negosyo's 3M on Wheels

**BY ALLYSA NIEVERA**

Aug 18, 2024 02:00 PM

More than 500 entrepreneurs in Valenzuela City availed of the free mentoring service of Go Negosyo's 3M on Wheels on Saturday, August 17, at SM City Valenzuela's main atrium.

The city government partnered with Go Negosyo for the second time to empower Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the city.

Business owners received one-on-one coaching from Go Negosyo's veteran entrepreneurship mentors composed of successful business owners, top executives, and respected business consultants.



**Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion together with Valenzuela City Mayor Wes Gatchalian at the 3M on Wheels entrepreneurship mentoring event at the SM City Valenzuela last August 17, 2024. Joining them at the event were PCCI Chairman George Barcelon (not in photo), PCCI North Regional Governor Yolly Dela Cruz, PCCI Valenzuela President Helen Lising, Womenbiz President Rhoda Caliwara, Tyremart Inc. President Chris Chillip, Standard Insurance President Patty Chillip, Uratex Valenzuela GM John Rosagas, Yovel East Agriventures President James Amparo, SM Mall Operations AVP Ana Datu, SM Mall Operations Senior AVP Johanna Rupisan.**

Go Negosyo's 3M on Wheels is a nationwide mentorship platform that offers entrepreneurs guidance on navigating the challenges of starting and scaling their businesses.

Joey Concepcion, Go Negosyo founder, thanked Valenzuela City Mayor Wes Gatchalian and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) Valenzuela president Helen Lising for supporting the city's thriving community of entrepreneurs.

Go Negosyo's 3M on Wheels is held in shopping malls in large cities around the country. The entrepreneurship roadshow has traveled to Cebu, Baguio, Bataan, Pampanga, Batangas,

Laguna, and is expected in other urban areas, including Pangasinan, La Union, and Iloilo to reach out to MSMEs from various industries like food, retail, agriculture, tourism, personal services, among others.

3M on Wheels is the on-ground, nationwide mentoring program started in 2018 and inspired by the growing number of Filipinos turning to entrepreneurship to lift themselves out of poverty. It aims to give MSMEs access to the three M's essential to successful entrepreneurship – Mentorship, Money, and Market – reflecting its overarching mission of providing not just mentorship, but also access to capital and markets.

During 3M on Wheels, participants receive one-on-one coaching from veteran entrepreneurs and successful business executives.

Finance service providers, meanwhile, introduce entrepreneurs to facilities for small-business lending, while specialists in different marketing channels are present to introduce solutions that cover everything from establishing physical stores and digital platforms, to logistics solutions and digital payment platforms. Participants can also inquire from potential franchise or business opportunities.

Government agencies are also represented to assist the entrepreneurs in their regulatory affairs as well as to answer questions on documentation, certifications, and applications.

Mayor Wes Gatchalian thanked Go Negosyo and the city's entrepreneurs who are eager to learn more in growing their business.

“Isang karangalan po na muli ay maging host ang Valenzuela sa ikalawang pagkakataon, dahil alam naman po natin na naging successful ito last year. Kaya natutuwa po ako na nandito muli sa SM Valenzuela ang 3M on Wheels para makatulong sa ating mga kababayan (It is a great honor to host 3M on Wheels for the second time because we knew how successful the first one was. We are very happy to have it here again in SM City Valenzuela to help our aspiring entrepreneurs),” he said.

“Ang inyong partisipasyon sa mga ganitong programa signifies your will to learn, kaya sana ay kunin natin ang pagkakataong ito para matuto sa mga experiences ng ating mga mentors sa kanilang journey to success (Your participation in events such as this signifies your will to learn, so I hope you take this chance to learn more about the experiences our mentors here have experienced in their journey to success),” he added.

Gatchalian said Valenzuela City also aims to grow the number of its entrepreneurs by streamlining the business registration process through the Paspas Permit system.

Through this quick processing system, the city government affirmed its commitment to providing opportunities for local entrepreneurs and ensure their sustained economic growth and development.

Department of Trade and Industry Acting Secretary Cris Roque and content creator Kiko Matthew were also present during the event.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/18/entrepreneurs-in-valenzuela-city-get-free-mentoring-from-go-negosyo-s-3-m-on-wheels>



# Senate approves livestock development bill

[Cecille Suerte Felipe](#) - The Philippine Star

August 18, 2024 | 12:00am



Sen. Cynthia Villar

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate has approved on third and final reading a proposed measure that would bolster the growth and enhance the productivity of the country’s livestock, poultry and dairy (LPD) industry.

Senate Bill 2558, otherwise known as an Act Strengthening Livestock, Poultry, and Dairy Industry Development and Competitiveness, Rationalizing the Organization and Functions of Relevant Government Agencies, And Creating a Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, was unanimously approved last Monday.

Sen. Cynthia Villar, principal author and sponsor of the bill, said the industry plays a vital role in ensuring food security and accounts for more than a quarter of the agricultural sector output. It also stimulates economic growth, especially in rural areas, by providing livelihood opportunities to more than 2.8 million livestock and poultry farmers.

“With our country’s growing population and increasing demand for food, we cannot allow this situation to continue. Through SB 2558, we will set a clear and strategic direction for the LPD industry, strengthen the organizational structure and institutional capacity of relevant agencies, and ensure that adequate resources are provided to support the growth and competitiveness of the industry,” Villar said.

“Pork and chicken are the integral components of the Filipino diet, helping ensure a balance intake of nutrients. It is estimated that 52 percent of our protein consumption comes from pork and chicken and this is projected to grow even

higher to 58 percent in 2030. Thus, high meat prices could lead to protein deficiency and contribute to malnutrition,” Villar said in her sponsorship speech.

She said disease outbreaks such as the African swine fever had adversely affected pork supply in the country since 2019. The Philippines also relied on imported poultry to address the shortfall of chicken products and increasing demand.

She said as a result, Filipinos spend more on meat as compared to their counterparts in Thailand and Vietnam.

Likewise, Villar said the Philippines is struggling with dairy production and is heavily dependent on imported milk. She cited data from the National Dairy Authority which showed that domestic dairy production in 2022 was merely 30,028 metric tons or less than one percent of the total milk supply in the country.

She said a 2022 study by the Philippine Institute for Development Study (PIDS) showed that the Philippines produces on average, only 6.8 liters of milk per animal per day versus Vietnam’s 24.2 liters per animal per day and Thailand’s production of 13.6 liters per animal per day.

Despite its importance, Villar said the industry faces several challenges that hinder it from realizing its full potentials. She said one of the major challenges is the highly fragmented government support structure overseeing the industry. She said the fragmentation has led in uncoordinated policies and efforts in developing the competitiveness of the LPD industry.

Villar said the LPD sector historically receives lower development assistance from the government. She said computations by the PIDS showed that from 2009 to 2020, the LPD sector received an average of 1.18 billion per year, accounting for only 1.6 percent of the total budget of the Department of Agriculture (DA) for the period.

While this amount has risen in recent years, with the National Livestock Program receiving P3.4 billion in the 2024 National Expenditure Program, Villar said the amount is still a relatively small amount when compared to the other commodity programs of the DA.

She said the bill proposes the setting up of a Philippine Livestock, Poultry and Dairy Value Chain Development Roadmap to streamline the organization and functions of relevant government agencies and to ensure efficient service delivery and effective implementation of the industry’s policies.

Villar said the bill also called for the creation of a steering committee which will be responsible for the formulation of the roadmap. In doing so, the National Livestock Program will be reorganized and renamed as the Program Management

Office. The PMO shall act as the secretariat and support staff to the steering committee. It may continue with the implementation of the livestock programs and projects under the former National Livestock Program, subject to the supervision and direction of the Undersecretary of the Livestock, Poultry, Dairy and Other Animals (NLPDA) Program.

A Management Information System shall also be created under the proposed legislation to enable timely and accurate responsive decision-making. The Livestock, Poultry, and Dairy Management Information System shall be the repository of all information relevant to the LPD industries down to the municipal level.

“And lastly, and most importantly, this proposed measure provides for the creation of a Livestock, Poultry and Dairy Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, building on the model of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund established before, or the Rice Tarrification Law,” Villar said.

“In addition to the regular budget of the LPD agencies from the annual General Appropriations Act, there is hereby created a Livestock, Poultry and Dairy Competitiveness Enhancement Fund which shall be utilized by these agencies,” the bill stated.

The fund shall consist an annual appropriation not exceeding P7.8 billion sourced from all tariff collections on imported livestock, poultry and dairy products for the fraction of the year following the effectivity of the Act and 10 years thereafter.

Villar said beneficiaries of the fund are small-holder raisers, cooperative associations or organizations accredited by the DA. An LPD Registry System, the master list of eligible beneficiaries, will be established by the DA in consultation with farmer cooperatives and the local government units.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/08/18/2378594/senate-approves-livestock-development-bill>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# DBM urges agencies to ramp up spending

[Helen Flores](#) - The Philippine Star

August 18, 2024 | 12:00am



The top spenders of the 2024 budget as of June 30 are the following: Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Finance, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Commission on Elections, Department of National Defense, Department of Transportation and the Department of Agriculture.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is urging government agencies to further ramp up their spending of the 2024 budget to improve the delivery of public goods and services.

The top spenders of the 2024 budget as of June 30 are the following: Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Finance, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of the Interior and Local



Government, Commission on Elections, Department of National Defense, Department of Transportation and the Department of Agriculture.

Meanwhile, the 10 agencies with the lowest utilization rates are the Department of Justice, Office of the Vice President, Department of Labor and Employment, Office of the President, Philippine Sports Commission, Department of Energy, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, Department of Migrant Workers, Commission on Higher Education and Congress.

At the Senate finance committee's deliberations on the proposed 2025 national budget on Tuesday, DBM Secretary Amenah Pangandaman said 65.4 percent of the P5.652-trillion allotment from the 2024 national budget and 2023 continuing appropriations has been obligated. Out of the P5.6-trillion allotment, some P4.1 trillion has been released to national government agencies to implement their programs and projects, 53.8 percent of which has been obligated, Pangandaman said.

**“High budget utilization rate reflects the agency’s absorptive capacity to utilize additional funds,” she said.**

The DBM has issued a circular requiring agencies with low obligation rates to submit their respective catch-up plans, according to Pangandaman.

“Meanwhile, a low budget utilization rate reflects the agency’s limited capacity to spend more funds, hence just last month, we issued circular letter 2024-12 requiring agencies with low obligation rates to submit their respective catch-up plans to improve the delivery of public goods and services,” she said.

For 2025, the proposed national budget is set at P6.352 trillion, which is 10.1 percent higher than this year’s P5.758-trillion outlay.

The sectors getting the lion’s share of the proposed budget for next year include education, public works, health, interior and local government and defense.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/08/18/2378703/dbm-urges-agencies-ramp-spending>

**BUSINESS WORLD:**

# Metro Pacific Agro Ventures weighs meat, eggs, aquaculture expansion

August 18, 2024 | 8:16 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/KRIZ JOHN ROSALES

METRO PACIFIC Agro Ventures, Inc. (MPAV) said it is looking to expand into various segments of the protein business like meat, eggs, and aquaculture.

“Part of our core strategy is to look at the Filipino plate... meat, eggs, or aquaculture — All of those are very interesting,” MPAV President and Chief Executive Officer Jovy I. Hernandez said during a briefing in Pasig City last week.

“We continuously want to look at areas where we can implement technology that will increase yield,” he added.

MPAV is the agriculture unit of Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC).

Mr. Hernandez said any meat expansion will involve managing the risk posed by animal diseases.

“We’re kind of cautious with meat because of the African Swine Fever (ASF) in terms of pork, and with bird flu for chicken,” he said.

He described the egg business as “a very interesting area that we will take a look at.”

MPAV has business interests in vegetable production, coconut processing and export, integrated dairy processing, and ice cream through the Carmen’s Best brand.

Mr. Hernandez said MPAV’s dairy business is expected to be self-sufficient in milk by 2026 following its recent investments.

MPAV recently acquired 100% ownership of Universal Harvester Dairy Farms, Inc. (UHDFI) for over P700 million to support the growth of its dairy business.

UHDFI operates the Bukidnon Milk Co. brand, and is active in the Visayas and Mindanao markets.

MPAV is also expecting Metro Pacific Dairy Farms in Laguna to be operational by the first quarter of 2025.

In 2022, MPIC acquired a controlling stake in The Laguna Creamery, Inc., which owns the brands Carmen’s Best ice cream and Holly’s Milk.

MPIC is one of three key Philippine units of First Pacific, the others being Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT Inc.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has a majority share in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/08/18/614729/metro-pacific-agro-ventures-weighs-meat-eggs-aquaculture-expansion/>

**BUSINESS WORLD:**

# Sugar import program seen yielding traders small profit

August 18, 2024 | 8:15 pm



BOC - PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE DIVISION (BOC-PIAD)

THE Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) said importing refined sugar is expected to allow traders to recover their costs and earn a small profit after shipping raw sugar to the US at a loss.

“Given that these traders (who participated in the US export trade) will also be given the chance to import refined sugar, the cost of money and other fees they incurred will probably give them just a little profit to recoup their expenses,” the regulator said in a statement on Sunday.

Last week, the SRA authorized imports of 240,000 metric tons (MT) of refined sugar. About 176,000 MT will fill any supply gaps that may emerge during the milling off season.

About 30 traders in the US export trade bought raw sugar at an average price of P2,700 per bag and obtained a US export price of P1,800 per bag, resulting in a loss of P900 per bag.

“It will take about 15 days to load the US shipments provided we have good weather,” SRA Administrator Pablo Luis S. Azcona said.

He added that another 30 days is needed for the cargo to reach the US.



Under Sugar Order 3, the Philippines allowed the export of 25,300 metric tons of raw sugar to fill its US sugar quota.

The Philippines has until Sept. 30 to fill the US quota.

Participants in the sugar export program will also be able to import refined sugar.

Mr. Azcona said that the Bacolod City government had also eased its truck ban for those carrying sugar cargo for loading. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/08/18/614727/sugar-import-program-seen-yielding-traders-small-profit/>

MANILA STANDARD

## *Lawmaker says Kadiwa franchise stores can push MSME dev't*



By Maricel Cruz

August 17, 2024, 11:45 pm

The Department of Agriculture's (DA) plan to expand the Kadiwa Stores through possible franchising has earned the nod of a lawmaker in the House of Representatives.

Rep. Tobias Tiangco of Navotas said he fully supports the proposal to open Kadiwa Franchise Stores because of its potential to further encourage MSME development in the country.

“We are optimistic that if the Department of Agriculture opens the initiative to cooperatives or even small- and medium-scale entrepreneurs, we can expand livelihood opportunities and even create jobs across the country,” he said.

Tiangco said expanding the operations of Kadiwa Stores can provide entrepreneurial opportunities, while also underpinning access to affordable basic commodities.

“With the administration’s direction of improving food production in the country, this approach can provide an end-to-end initiative that can improve food production and sustainability and market access for goods of Filipino farmers while offering an effective mechanism to mitigate inflation,” he added.

“I agree with Secretary Tiu Laurel’s statement that when President Bongbong Marcos took on the role of DA Chief at the start of his term, he was able to fully grasp the current situation of agricultural development in the country. This has led to numerous policies and programs which aim to modernize agriculture and improve food sustainability in the country,” he added.

Tiangco said the Kadiwa Program can become another pillar of the administration’s poverty alleviation program if its franchise program can be opened to small- and medium-scale entrepreneurs.

“If this initiative is implemented properly, it can create jobs, boost revenues, and more importantly, improve access to affordable commodities,” he said.

Tiangco believes that under the leadership of Secretary Tiu-Laurel, this initiative can be streamlined in current plans of the administration for MSME development. “ I am certain that DA, under Secretary Tiu-Laurel, will be innovative in its implementation of this initiative to ensure it is inclusive and instrumental to our goal of providing opportunities for Filipinos to progress,” he said.

DA Secretary Francisco Laurel Tiu Jr. had earlier announced the department’s plan to allow cooperatives and private sector operators to franchise Kadiwa stores to increase the number of permanent outlets nationwide.

<https://www.manilastandard.net/news/314485558/lawmaker-says-kadiwa-franchise-stores-can-push-msme-devt.html>

## *Bulacan tightens measures vs ASF*

By Frederick Silverio

August 18, 2024

THE provincial government of Bulacan and the Department of Agriculture (DA) have intensified the monitoring of the African swine fever (ASF) situation in the province.

Gov. Daniel Fernando said the government will continue to communicate and coordinate with the DA to prevent the entry and spread of the ASF virus in the province.

"I want to inform you that we continue to monitor the situation of African swine fever in our province. Despite the challenges, our provincial government is coordinating with the Department of Agriculture to prevent its spread and ensure that all the meat in our town markets is safe to consume and of good quality," said Fernando.

Fernando is also calling on all hog raisers in the province to be vigilant and to continue following the protocols and guidelines for the protection of the pig industry.

He also asked the citizens of Bulacan to immediately inform the concerned authorities if they see animals showing symptoms of ASF.

Fernando, however, assured that the province of Bulacan remain ASF-free.

The governor also said that checkpoints manned by personnel from the Philippine National Police and the Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) have been installed in all borders of Bulacan.



Dr. Voltaire Basinag, head of Bulacan PVO, said that on July 11, ASF cases were detected in a hog farm in Bocaue, Bulacan that led to the culling of 80 pigs.

Basinag said it was an isolated case and the virus did not spread in neighboring hog farms.

He also refuted the news that ASF-infected pork meat from Batangas were brought and sold in Bulacan markets.

"We in Bulacan always have meat inspectors in our slaughterhouses and market inspectors in the public and private markets to make sure that what is sold in the markets is safe to eat," said Basinag.

It is fake news, he said.

Meanwhile, Angeles City Mayor Carmelo Lazatin Jr. on Aug. 15, 2024 ordered the setup of livestock checkpoints across the city to ensure that it will remain free from ASF.

In Memorandum Order 1788, Series of 2024, Lazatin instructed the Angeles City Police Office headed by Col. Amado Mendoza Jr. and the Angeles City Traffic Development Office led by Francis Pangilinan to set up border checkpoints for inspection of delivery trucks entering the city, which are possibly transporting pigs and meat products from ASF positive areas from Batangas.

"This preventive measure is to ensure that the city is free from ASF," Lazatin said.

In the same memorandum, Lazatin urged that all hog dealers who will enter the city must present the necessary documents such as Certificate of Free Status on ASF, Vaccination Record from Veterinarian, and Shipping Permit.

In line with this, the City Meat Inspection Division headed by Executive Assistant IV Reina Manuel and the City Veterinary Office headed by Dr. Christian Arcilla are also on standby to support the border control measures.

Lazatin's chief adviser IC Calaguas, meanwhile, said the city slaughterhouse is also in strict compliance with the protocols.

"Mayor Lazatin wants to be vigilant as ever. Angeles City is ASF-free, and Mayor Lazatin wants to keep it that way," Calaguas said.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/08/18/regions/bulacan-tightens-measures-vs-asf>

# *NFA facility to hike rice output in La Union*

By Leander C. Domingo

August 18, 2024

THE provincial government of La Union is expecting an increase in rice production with the soon-to-be-constructed P200 million rice processing center in partnership with the National Food Authority (NFA).

Gov. Raphaelle Veronica Ortega-David said the partnership with NFA is expected to "accelerate rice productivity in the province" with the signing of a Deed of Usufruct between PGLU and NFA on Aug. 7, 2024.

Ortega-David represented the provincial government while Administrator Larry Lacson represented the NFA in the signing of the usufruct agreement which they said "green lights the construction of a P200 million rice processing center by the NFA in a two-hectare PGLU property in Barangay Damortis, Santo Tomas town."

"With the facility's construction, La Union is keen to leverage its rice self-sufficiency status to realize its vision to be the 'Heart of Agri-Tourism' in Northern Luzon by 2025," the governor said.

She also noted that the integrated rice processing center will feature advanced state-of-the-art technologies and facilities such as rice mill, mechanical dryer, 100,000-bag capacity warehouse, generator sets, three-phase power supply, electronic truck scale and a staff house.

The bidding for the project will commence this year, and the construction target is July 2025. Upon completion, the project will be the first NFA-owned rice processing center in the region.

Lacson cited and lauded La Union's rice sufficiency with 152,000 metric tons of rice produced in a year.

"With a production rate of 4.5 metric tons per hectare, the province also surpasses the national production average of four metric tons per hectare," he said.

Lacson also said that the establishment of a government-owned rice processing facility will ensure efficient and sustainable processing of high-quality rice, and spur the growth of the local rice industry.

"This is part of the National Food Authority's plan to boost national food security through modernized processing facilities," he said.

Thanking the NFA for recognizing the province's thrust on local agricultural productivity, Ortega-David said the provincial government "vigorously works with the national government agencies like the NFA in our shared mandate to promote the welfare and interests of our farmers and agricultural workers."

Also noting that the farmers' livelihood is the "lifeblood of our society," the governor said her administration will continue to ensure maximum support to farmers and agri-entrepreneurs.

Ortega-David also noted that through the Palay Marketing Assistance, the provincial government supplements NFA's buying price of palay with a top-up of P5 premium per kilo which is among the highest in the country.

"This fosters trust among rice farmers in engaging directly with the government, thus not only increasing their income but also streamlining the rice value chain," she added.



Ortega-David said the establishment of the rice processing center will also strengthen La Union's strategic position in disaster response.

"As NFA's buffer stock will be housed here in La Union, our provision of relief goods during emergencies and calamities will be faster," the governor said.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/08/18/regions/nfa-facility-to-hike-rice-output-in-la-union/1964766>

# *Organic food exports are the future*

By Fr. Shay Cullen

August 18, 2024

THE healthiest people I have ever met are the upland Aeta farmers of Zambales. In Zambales' Cabangan town, I met Jun Garcia and his wife Maria, sustenance farmers living off what food they grow and selling their surplus in the local market. They have six children; they say they are neither rich nor poor.

"Our lives are simple here, peaceful, surrounded by nature. We never go hungry, and we have no sickness in the family," Maria says. They grow their own fruits, vegetables, corn and mangoes and raise free-range chickens. They lead healthy lives, free of diseases like stomach illnesses and diabetes.

Living close to nature, surrounded by trees and streams and without an internet connection, the Garcias are free from the social and moral negativity spread on the internet, particularly on social media. They have a radio, and their children go to school. Like their neighbors, the Garcias live in a simple house made of bamboo and grass. They are content. They are improving their income, as there is growing demand for their once-unsellable pico and Indian variety mangoes for export. This demand for not only mangoes but also bananas is earning them high fair-trade prices with the help of the Profairtrade Development Enterprise (PDE).

Now, farmers want to sell their bananas to make organic banana chips for export but cannot because Philippine government regulations and bureaucracy do not allow them to buy 30 sacks of regulated white organic sugar. Is it because the farmers and PDE are too small an enterprise? The European Union wants Philippine-certified organic banana chips.

Hopefully, Pablo Luis Azcona, the ever-helpful and efficient administrator and chief executive officer of the Sugar Regulatory Administration, and his team will come to the farmers' rescue. The farmers will be advised and inspired by the very vigilant and helpful Assistant Secretary Agaton Teodoro Uvero of the Philippine Fair Trade Group (FTG), which helps promote trade fairness for small producers. I will tell you how below.

Juan and Maria Garcia are among the 562 members of PDE that help the fair trade organic farmers association in Zambales. Together, the farmers delivered 81 tons of fresh pico/carabao mangoes. After the mangoes were processed in a factory in Bulacan, these were turned into 41 tons of EU-standard certified organic mango

puree for export to Germany — the only one of its kind in the Philippines, they say.

The low-value mangoes were of irregular size, scratched, stained and not sweet, but were great for making organic, high-priced puree. The farmers also harvested and delivered 31 tons of the normally unsellable Indian mango variety, which were also turned into organic puree and exported to Germany.

These 562 Filipinos, mostly Aeta farmers, have succeeded in keeping a land area measuring some 50 kilometers by 20 kilometers free of chemicals and which was certified organic by the international certification agency Control Union. These simple but hardworking farmers contribute greatly to the Philippine economy.

German importers and customers are now waiting anxiously for the Profairtrade farmers' organic banana chips. The trial order of 10,000 packages has been placed with PDE, and these cannot be produced and exported because there is no available organic white sugar in the Philippines for small-scale producers to buy. If no such sugar is bought, the export order will be lost, jobs will be canceled, and the Philippine government risks losing exporters' confidence. But this will not happen because the SRA's ever-alert and helpful chief Azcona will take it as a challenge. The challenge for him is to help PDE find a way to buy 30 sacks of white organic sugar for the project.

If the FTG's ever-helpful Uvero would respond and help farmers sell their bananas, we can produce the organic banana chips before the order is canceled. His office and team will protect small-time banana chip producers from discrimination and give them access to white organic sugar, which the Philippines, unlike India, does not produce. Then, there will be hope for social justice and fairness for the small- and medium-sized producers to make and export their products.

The long-term future of the EU market lies in organic food produce. An internet search reveals that imports of organic agri-food products in the EU have increased from 2.79 million metric tons in 2020 to 2.87 MMT in 2021. The EU remains a major importer of organic agri-food products,

Germany and the Netherlands imported the most organic products in 2021. The future of EU exports will have to be organic. This is a great challenge to the Philippines, as the EU is preparing to pass new laws demanding more organic fruit imports. The demand for coconut milk is increasing, too. If there is any coconut corporation in the Philippines with EU-standard certified organic coconut milk or cream for sale, there is a standing order for 40,000 330-millimeter tetra packs waiting to be fulfilled. This is a test order for the German market that will surely grow. If there is a supplier interested, please email [shaycullen@gmail.com](mailto:shaycullen@gmail.com).

Let's do all we can to help Filipino coconut and banana organic farmers and help lift the poor to a healthier, more prosperous life with fair trade and justice.

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*www.predfairtrade.net*

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/08/18/opinion/columns/organic-food-exports-are-the-future/1964735>

## *Pamamahagi ng bakuna vs ASF sisimulan sa Martes*

By **Gemma Garcia**

August 18, 2024 - 12:00am



Ayon kay Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, inaasahan na sa Martes ay maipapamahagi na ang bakuna laban sa ASF para mapigilan pa ang pagkalat ng nasabing sakit sa mga apektadong bayan ng Batangas.

Cesar Ramirez

**MANILA, Philippines — Target ng Department of Agriculture (DA) na maipamahagi sa susunod na linggo ang bakuna laban sa African Swine Fever.**

Ayon kay Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, inaasahan na sa Martes ay maipapamahagi na ang bakuna laban sa ASF para mapigilan pa ang pagkalat ng nasabing sakit sa mga apektadong bayan ng Batangas.

Dagdag pa ng kalihim masuwerteng nakapag-donate ang supplier ng 2,000 doses at darating ito ngayong Biyernes kaya posibleng sa Martes ay maumpisahan na ang pagbabakuna.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/08/18/2378675/pamamahagi-ng-bakuna-vs-asf-sisimulan-sa-martes/amp>

**REMATE:**

## **Cagayan, Isabela at Nueva Vizcaya pinasok na ng ASF**

August 18, 2024 13:29



**TUGUEGARAO CITY** – Pinasok na ng African swine fever (ASF) ang ilang bahagi ng mga lalawigan ng Cagayan, Isabela at Nueva Vizcaya na nag-udyok sa mga lokal na opisyal na maglagay ng checkpoints.

Sinabi ni Dr. Manuel Galang Jr., Department of Agriculture-Cagayan Valley anti-ASF focal person, na ang departamento ng agrikultura at mga local government unit ay nagpatupad ng pork ban sa mga apektadong lugar upang mapigil ang virus habang ang Regional African Swine Fever Task Force ay nag-set up ng mga checkpoint.

Kabilang sa mga apektadong lugar ang mga bayan ng Sta. Fe, Dupax Del Norte, Dupax Del Sur at Bambang sa Nueva Vizcaya; Angadanan at San Guillermo sa Isabela at Enrile at Iguig sa Cagayan.



Hindi bababa sa 124 na baboy ang na-culled sa mga apektadong lugar sa rehiyon.

Sa Isabela, 17 baboy ang kinaltol sa bayan ng San Guillermo habang 46 na ulo ang namatay at inilibing ng mga hog raisers sa District 1 at Anonang villages, ayon sa talaan ng beterinaryo ng Isabela.

Sa bayan ng Angadanan, 24 ang na-culled habang 39 ang namatay at inilibing sa La Suerte village.

Gayunpaman, sinabi ni Galang na ang mga kaso ay “isolated” pa rin at kakaunti lamang ang mga nayon sa mga apektadong lugar ang naitala.

Sinabi ni Galang na hindi bababa sa 600,000 dosis ng mga anti-ASF vaccine ang inaasahang darating sa lalong madaling panahon. **RNT**

<https://remate.ph/cagayan-isabela-at-nueva-vizcaya-pinasok-na-ng-asf/>

**REMATE:**

## Presyo ng baboy bumaba, presyo ng manok tumaas sa ilang pamilyan

August 18, 2024 09:34



MANILA, Philippines – Magkakaiba ang mga presyo sa pampublikong merkado para sa baboy at manok sa gitna ng pagkalat ng African Swine Fever sa ilang probinsya.

Sa monitoring mula sa Department of Agriculture, makikita ang presyo ng liempo sa P305 kada kilo at ang kasim ay bumaba ng P10 kada kilo.

Samantala, ang mga nagtitingi ng manok at itlog ay nagtaas ng presyo habang naghahanap ang mga mamimili ng mga alternatibong mapagkukunan ng protina.

Ang pagsiklab ng ASF ay nagkaroon ng masamang epekto sa pambansang populasyon ng baboy, na bumaba mula 12.7 milyon noong 2019 hanggang sa tinatayang 9.9 milyon sa pagtatapos ng 2023.

Ayon sa Bureau of Animal Industry, kumalat ang ASF sa lahat ng 17 rehiyon ng Pilipinas at apektado ang 74 na lalawigan.

Noong Agosto 8, 64 na munisipalidad sa 22 probinsya ang nag-ulat ng mga aktibong kaso ng ASF.

Pinopondohan ng DA ang isang programa sa repopulation ng baboy.

“May nakalaan na dalawang bilyon para sa repopulation na ngayon ay gumugulong na,” ani DA Assistant Secretary for Swine and Poultry Constante Palabrica.

Tiniyak din ng DA na hindi makakarating sa mga pamilihan ang mga infected na pork products. *RNT*

<https://remate.ph/presyo-ng-baboy-bumaba-presyo-ng-manok-tumaas-sa-ilang-pamilihan/>

**ABANTE:**

# Suplay ng karneng baboy sapat kahit may ASF

- Abante News
- August

17,

2024



Tiniyak ng Department of Agriculture (DA) na sapat ang suplay ng karneng baboy sa bansa kahit namamayani pa rin ang African Swine Fever (ASF).

Ayon kay DA Asec. Dante Palabrica, nagkakandarapa ngayon ang mga piggery farm sa pagbenta ng alagang baboy bago tamaan ng ASF at ito ang nagpapababa ng presyo ng karneng baboy.

“Initially bababa ang presyo dahil nga inilalabas ng mga piggery ‘yung kanilang baboy sa takot dito sa NMIS (National Meat Inspection Service)’” wika ni Palabrica sa radio interview.

“Huwag mag-alala ‘yung mga consumer sapagkat mayroon naman tayong mga probinsya na nagre-repopulation at ang gobyerno natin may nakalaan na P2 bilyon para sa repopulation na ngayon ay gumugulong na,” dagdag pa niya.

Sinabi ni Palabrica na kahit magkaroon na ng bakuna laban sa ASF, kailangan pa ring maghigpit ang gobyerno upang hindi ito kumalat sa ibang panig ng bansa.

“Walang silver bullet dito, kailangang maraming gagawin,” diin ng opisyal.

Ang una nilang ginagawa ay ang mahigpit na checkpoint. Panga-lawa ay ang pagtataas ng bayad sa mga infected baboy na kailangang patayin at ang pangat-lo ay ang bakuna.

Mula sa P5,000, ang indemnity ay tinaas na sa P8,000 para sa mga grower at P12,000 naman sa mga inahin na baboy.

Tiniyak naman ni Palabrica na walang pinapairal na palakasan system dahil kahit galing sa korporasyon ang baboy na infected ng ASF, kailangan ding patayin ang mga ito.

“Napatunayan natin na kahit malaki kang kompanya, huli ka kapag nagkaroon ka ng peke (permit) lalo na ‘yung mga truck saka freezer van,” saad ng opisyal.

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/08/17/suplay-ng-karneng-baboy-sapat-kahit-may-asf/>

