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MANILA BULLETIN:

Belmonte urges hog owners to voluntarily surrender their pigs

BY HANNAH NICOL

Aug 22, 2024 01:59 PM



Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte on Wednesday, August 21, urged backyard hog owners to surrender their pigs to the city government as a city ordinance prohibits pig farming in the city.

The advisory aims to prevent the spread of African Swine Fever (ASF) after discovering that some residents continue to raise pigs for their livelihood despite the prohibition.

“Napagalaman ng lungsod na mayroon pa ring ilang residente na nag-aalaga ng baboy bilang kabuhayan. Pero tayo ay may ordinansa kaya hindi ito pwede. Kaya nananawagan po ako sa mga QCitizen na i-turnover ito sa lungsod (The city has found that some residents are still raising pigs for livelihood. However, we have an ordinance prohibiting this. Therefore, I urge all QCitizens to turn over their pigs to the city),” Belmonte said.

“Sa tulong din ng QC Council, titiyakin namin na mabibigyan ng suporta at maaalayan ang mga apektadong residente (With the support of the QC Council, we will ensure that affected residents receive assistance and support),” she added.

According to the city government, they will offer financial assistance to owners who comply, and the pigs will be handed to the Department of Agriculture.

Penalties will be imposed only on those who fail to follow the directive until August 31, the city government added.

In addition, if the pigs are confirmed to be ASF-free, they will be handed over to the Department of Agriculture to be sold in Kadiwa Stores. However, if they are found to be contaminated, they will be euthanized and buried.

In 2020, the city government along with the QC Council enacted City Ordinance No. 2990, Series of 2020, which prohibits piggeries and poultry farms for food or meat production.

The restriction is supported by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) Resolution No. R-674, Series of 2000.

"As a highly-urbanized city, bawal ang piggery at livestock sa Quezon City kaya pinaiiingting natin ang inspeksyon. Minabuti nating tumulong sa BAI para matiyak na hindi kumalat ang virus sa ibang lugar para hindi makaapekto at makapaminsala sa kabuhayan ng ating QCitizens (As a highly urbanized city, pig farming and livestock are prohibited in Quezon City, which is why we are strengthening our inspections. We have decided to assist the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) to ensure that the virus does not spread to other areas, safeguarding the livelihoods of our QCitizens)," City Mayor Joy Belmonte said.

The ordinance imposes a penalty of ₱2,000 and up to three months in jail, or both, for a first offense. Repeat offenders face a fine of ₱3,000 and up to five months in prison, while a third violation results in a fine of ₱5,000 and up to one year imprisonment.

Meanwhile, the city government also affirmed the residents that there are no reported cases of ASF in the city, as it strengthened its preventive measures.

Personnel from the City's Veterinary Department (QCVD) and the Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) have been conducting thorough inspections to ensure that all livestock entering the city are ASF-free.

The QCVD has inspected 502 deliveries from Batangas and Quezon provinces; 452 were cleared, while 46 were sent back due to missing documents.

Four deliveries were apprehended, and 188 pigs tested positive for ASF were euthanized and buried in another province, it added.

The QCVD and BAI also held 153 pigs for testing due to signs of ASF contamination.

City Veterinarian Dr. Ana Marie Cabel emphasized that inspections are also conducted regularly in markets and grocery stores.

"Hindi natatapos sa checkpoints 'yung assistance natin sa BAI. Pati mga karneng baboy sa mga palengke at grocery, chine-check din natin 'yung certifications para masigurado talaga na walang ASF-contained pork na makakapasok at maibebenta sa lungsod (Our assistance to the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) doesn't end with the checkpoints. We also inspect pork products in markets and grocery stores, checking certifications to ensure that no ASF-contaminated pork enters and is sold in the city)," she said.

The local government will also provide BAI with a two-hectare property as a holding area for trucks carrying hogs.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/22/belmonte-urges-hog-owners-to-voluntarily-surrender-their-pigs>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Rare Philippine vine to shine at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

BY BILLIE DUMALIANG

Aug 22, 2024 01:23 PM

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of visiting two of the United Kingdom's most esteemed scientific and cultural institutions: the Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG), Kew, at both its London and Wakehurst, Sussex locations, and the Natural History Museum of London.

As part of a delegation from the UP Los Baños Museum of Natural History and the Masungi Georeserve Foundation, we participated in the formal handover of JC's Vine (*Strongylodon juangonzalezii*) specimens to RBG, Kew. This donation marks a significant step in promoting the Philippines' unique biodiversity and strengthening international collaboration on the research and conservation of this rare species.



JC's Vine climbs and coils up to forest canopies, usually in secondary forests, with flowers blooming in clusters, transforming from vibrant lilac to electric blue as it matures.

Prior to the seed donation, the parties took careful measures to ensure proper inspection and transportation of the plant material and to guarantee fair access and benefit-sharing in accordance with international guidelines.

The importance of collaborating with global botanic gardens like RBG, Kew, in conserving endemic species cannot be overstated. Both in-situ (in the wild) and ex-situ (outside natural habitat) conservation efforts are critical, especially when a species' natural habitat faces severe threats from destructive activities and short-sighted policies.

“We look forward to seeing JC's Vine thrive outside its natural habitat, allowing more people to appreciate its beauty,” said Michelle D.R. Alejado, a member of the team that discovered JC’s Vine in 2015, during the turnover ceremony. “Both in-situ and ex-situ conservation are essential for protecting species that thrive on karst landscapes, and we are grateful for this partnership in safeguarding our Philippine biodiversity.”



The UPLB Natural History Museum and Masungi Georeserve Foundation delegates with Simon Toomer, head of living collections at RBG Kew

JC’s Vine has only been officially documented in four locations across the Philippines, with the Masungi Georeserve serving as its primary research and observation center. The accessibility, abundance, and maturity of its population there allow scientists to study and document the entire lifecycle of this stunning vine—from pollination and fruiting to germination and growth.

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, is a highly prestigious institution that nature lovers would describe as "a green thumb’s heaven." It is globally renowned for its unparalleled collections and scientific expertise in plant and fungal diversity, conservation, and sustainable development. Kew’s scientists and their partners are at the forefront of combating biodiversity loss and discovering nature-based solutions to the climate crisis.

ADVERTISEMENT

With nearly 1,000 staff members, half of whom are scientists and experts, Kew offers a robust guarantee that JC’s Vine will flourish under their care. Even in the worst-case

scenario, this ex-situ conservation effort ensures that JC's Vine will continue to thrive and be protected.



A staff member arranges seeds in full gear at a freezing compartment in the Millennium Seed Bank.

Simon Toomer, head of living collections at RBG, Kew, personally guided our tour through the gardens' famous glasshouses and nurseries, which house more than 20 different climatic zones representing diverse ecosystems. Here, JC's Vine seeds will be nurtured before they are displayed in one of the glasshouses, possibly the iconic Palm House.

Our delegation also visited the Wakehurst location of RBG, Kew, about an hour and a half's drive from Central London. Wakehurst is Kew's wild botanic garden in the heart of Sussex, home to the Millennium Seed Bank, which holds over 2.4 billion seeds from around the world, preserving them for the future. The rugged terrain of Wakehurst offered us a chance to observe wilder natural landscapes and the management of meadows and woodlands.

We concluded our visit with a trip to the Natural History Museum of London (NHM London), where we reconnected with colleagues at the forefront of research and public engagement. The museum shared some of its finest specimens from the Philippines and the world, dating back centuries, including an impressive beetle collection of over 10 million specimens—some of which were collected by Charles Darwin himself.



The author with experts from the Natural History Museum of London

Despite the differences in history and landscape among these institutions, three key observations stood out:

1. The success and longevity of these institutions are anchored in science and cutting-edge content, with hundreds of scientists working behind the scenes at both RBG, Kew, and the NHM of London.
2. Engaging the public, particularly in the digital age, is crucial. Both institutions have adapted to modern trends while respecting their rich traditions. For instance, the NHM London has successfully attracted younger audiences by hosting silent discos in its galleries, allowing visitors to dance beneath a giant dinosaur.
3. Sustaining these institutions requires innovative marketing and revenue streams. While both RBG, Kew, and the NHM London receive government funding (30 percent for Kew and 50 percent for NHM London), a significant portion of their income is self-generated through venue hires, merchandise, food services, and events. As these institutions emphasized, this self-generated income is increasingly necessary to support their operations.



Person-to-person connections among experts and horticulturists were made in view of long-term partnerships with RBG, Kew.

Experts in London mentioned the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines as a world-leading research center. The question now is whether we can cultivate more such institutions in the Philippines. The lessons from these UK institutions are clear: investing in science, public engagement, sustainable financing, and, perhaps most importantly, empowering passionate people can make it happen.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to the British Embassy Manila, led by Ambassador Laure Beaufils, and Philippine Ambassador to the UK Teodoro Locsin Jr. for their support in fostering this international collaboration. The delegation would also like to thank our colleagues at RBG, Kew, and NHM London for taking time for this meaningful initiative, as well as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region IV-A and the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Plant Industry for assisting in the relevant transport permits.

https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/22/rare-philippine-vine-shine-royal-botanic-gardens-kew#google_vignette

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Government embarks on project to scale up bangus fry output

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

August 23, 2024 | 12:00am



Three government agencies signed a tripartite agreement for the implementation of the HATCH Project that stands for Heat-Assisted Temperature Control and Monitoring System for Hatchery Management of Milkfish.

Philstar.com / File Photo

MANILA, Philippines — The government is spending P5 million for an automated hatchery project that seeks to improve the breeding process and production of milkfish fry in a bid to boost the industry.

Three government agencies signed a tripartite agreement for the implementation of the HATCH Project that stands for Heat-Assisted Temperature Control and Monitoring System for Hatchery Management of Milkfish.

The project aims to introduce a cost-effective, reliable heating system designed to maintain optimal water temperatures in broodstock tanks during cold months,

according to the Department of Agriculture's National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI).

The agencies involved in the agreement are the NFRDI, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the Metals Industry Research and Development Center of the Department of Science and Technology.

HATCH Project leader Glen Espena said the project would involve a recirculating aquaculture system equipped with a heat pump, an electric heater and automation systems for water quality monitoring.

"This R&D intervention aims to create a conducive breeding environment for milkfish broodstock by ensuring optimal water quality in tank-based facilities," Espena said.

DA Undersecretary Drusila Bayate said the project would help in reducing the country's dependence on imports for the supply of milkfish fry.

"Our domestic supply of milkfish fry is still insufficient, which forces us to rely on imports. We need to achieve year-round fry production to address these supply gaps," said Bayate, who chairs the NFRDI governing board.

"The HATCH Project presents an opportunity to enhance the technical and economic performance of hatchery operations, ultimately leading to fry sufficiency and increased fish production," she added.

NFRDI executive director Lilian Garcia said the project is a "significant" step toward mechanizing and automating hatchery systems in the country.

"Applying science, technology and innovation in aquaculture will catalyze growth and industrialization in the coming years," she said.

The budget for the project came from the DOST-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development's Grants-In-Aid. The project would be implemented at the BFAR-National Fisheries Development Center in Dagupan City for over 18 months, concluding on June 30, 2025.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/08/23/2379805/government-embarks-project-scale-bangus-fry-output>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Carina, monsoon agri damage soars to P4.72 billion

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

August 23, 2024 | 12:00am



Residents rescue other stranded residents as flood waters continue to rise at Barangay Bagong Silangan in Quezon City due to torrential rain brought by #CarinaPH and southwest monsoon on July 24, 2024.

STAR / Miguel De Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — The amount of damage caused by the southwest monsoon and Typhoon Carina to agriculture and fishery in 12 regions has reached P4.72 billion, according to the Department of Agriculture.

Data from the DA's operations center showed that Carina and the monsoon destroyed 82,824 hectares of agricultural areas in the Cordilleras, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western and Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga peninsula, Soccsksargen and Caraga.

Up to 69,690 tons of agricultural produce were lost to the bad weather that also displaced up to 137,999 farmers, the DA said.

Up to 35 percent of the country's irrigation facilities amounting to P1.64 billion were destroyed by floodwaters.

Meanwhile, damage to palay production was placed at P1.08 billion covering 67,432 hectares of rice fields.

The amount of damage to the fishery sector reached P783.96 million, while to high value crops was estimated at P691.62 million covering 4,318 hectares of farm lands.

Corn damage reached P496.45 million covering 11,009 hectares of corn fields, while livestock and poultry incurred P38.26 million in losses.

The bad weather destroyed P44.4 million worth of agricultural infrastructures as well as machinery and equipment with P4.01 million.

“The DA, through its regional field offices and in collaboration with affected local government units, is validating and assessing the impact of the combined effects of the monsoon and Carina to agriculture and fishery. Efforts are being undertaken to provide assistance and appropriate interventions to affected farmers and fisherfolk,” the agency said.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/08/23/2379884/carina-monsoon-agri-damage-soars-p472-billion>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Price freeze imposed in La Union

[Artemio Dumlao](#) - The Philippine Star

August 23, 2024 | 12:00am



The provincial government activated its price coordinating council after declaring a state of calamity on July 30.

STAR / File

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — A price freeze on basic commodities and select drugs has been imposed in La Union following the devastation of Typhoon Carina and the southwest monsoon.

The provincial government activated its price coordinating council after declaring a state of calamity on July 30.

The price freeze will remain in effect until Sept. 28.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said that based on their monitoring, retail prices and supply of basic commodities in all municipalities in the province as well as in the city of San Fernando are stable.

DTI officials conducted a Diskwento Caravan for school supplies and inspected weighing scales in public markets.

The Department of Health (DOH) tapped its electronic drug price monitoring system to capture, process, store and generate reports on drugs and medicines as well as inventories from pharmaceutical companies and drugstores.

Weekly monitoring of prices will be conducted by agencies tasked to implement the Price Act such as DTI for processed goods, DOH for essential drugs and Department of Agriculture for farm produce.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/08/23/2379897/price-freeze-imposed-la-union>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Hog vaccination vs ASF starts September 2

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

August 23, 2024 | 12:00am



DA assistant secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa said the vaccination was not delayed and the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) complied with the process required for the program.

AFP / File

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) will start vaccinating hogs against African swine fever on Sept. 2 in Lobo, Batangas, the “ground zero” of ASF outbreaks.

DA assistant secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa said the vaccination was not delayed and the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) complied with the process required for the program.

“The formal process for the administration of the vaccine has started. We need to ensure that hog farms and their owners are ready,” De Mesa said.

At least 10,000 doses of ASF vaccine acquired through emergency procurement arrived in the country over the weekend.

“The vaccination will be on Sept. 2, 5 and 6,” De Mesa said, adding that an orientation was conducted in Lobo yesterday.

He said up to 160 hog raisers attended the orientation.

“They were eager to participate and they allowed their pigs to be vaccinated,” De Mesa said.

The municipal government of Lobo conducted validation of hog farms after their owners signed up for the vaccination.

“The local government of Lobo checked the biosecurity of each farm to be covered by the vaccination. The next step is to test the hogs and those that will test negative for ASF will be vaccinated,” De Mesa said.

He said the regional animal disease and diagnostics laboratory could only accommodate 445 samples for testing every day.

De Mesa said the towns of Lobo and Calatagan would be first to be covered by the vaccination program as these municipalities were the first to declare a state of calamity because of the outbreak.

“Eventually, (we will cover) the entire province. We will vaccinate hogs in areas outside Lobo like Lipa, where several ASF cases have also been recorded,” he said.

Aside from the 10,000 vaccine doses, the DA is expecting the arrival of another 10,000 doses as the country will procure a total of 600,000 doses of ASF vaccine.

Vaccine subsidy mulled

The DA said it is studying the possibility of subsidizing the rollout of ASF vaccines for backyard hog raisers once a vaccine candidate is proven worthy to be commercially distributed in the country.

DA assistant secretary Constante Palabrica said a proposal to subsidize the commercial distribution of ASF vaccines for small swine farms is being deliberated by the agency.

Palabrica clarified that there is no plan to subsidize commercial farms since vaccines are part of their business models.

Hog industry stakeholders earlier raised concerns that the proposed price for a dose of ASF vaccine, which ranges between P400 and P500, is too expensive for small-scale swine raisers.

“We have discussed the possibility of subsidizing ASF vaccines, which will depend on the availability of funds. But yes, it can be subsidized and we are studying it,” Palabrica told journalists yesterday. – **Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas**

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/08/23/2379906/hog-vaccination-vs-asf-starts-september-2>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Agri losses from Supertyphoon Carina, habagat reach P4.7B

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:04 AM August 23, 2024



RESERVOIR This aerial photo shows the floodwaters entering the Upper Wawa Damreservoir in Rodriguez, Rizal, and how the dam’s controlled impounding system reduced the impact of flooding caused by Supertyphoon “Carina” (international name: Gaemi) last week. —WAWAJVCO INC.

The country’s farm sector lost P4.73-billion worth of agricultural commodities due to combined effects of the southwest monsoon (“habagat”) and Supertyphoon “Carina” (international name: Gaemi), which battered the country last month.

The Department of Agriculture’s (DA) final bulletin on losses from the weather disturbances, which was released on Wednesday, covered 12 regions. It affected 137,999 farmers and fishers in the Cordillera, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon), Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan), Bicol, Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Soccsksargen (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, General Santos) and Caraga regions.

The DA said Carina and habagat damaged 68,690 metric tons (MT) of produce covering 82,824 hectares.

Irrigation facilities were mostly affected, comprising 34.72 percent or P1.64 billion of the total damage. Rice followed with 22.9 percent (P1.08 billion), mostly those newly planted and in vegetative stages.

Fisheries including fishing gears, fish ponds, stock facilities, “payao” (fish aggregating device), fiberglass reinforced plastic and motorized boats, dikes and gates posted damage worth P783.96 million.

Losses in high-value crops amounted to P691.62 million, mainly upland and lowland vegetables, spices, legumes and fruits.

The DA said it was exerting “best possible efforts” to provide appropriate financial assistance and interventions to affected farmers and fishers.

The agency will distribute P301.72-million worth of rice and corn seeds and P17.63-million worth of vegetable seeds as well as prepare biocontrol measures totaling P6.31 million.

The Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. is prepared to indemnify affected farmers while the Agricultural Credit Policy Council’s Survival and Recovery Loan Program can extend loans of up to P25,000, payable in three years at zero interest. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources will hand out fingerlings, fishing gears and paraphernalia to affected fishers.

The agriculture sector’s hit from Carina and habagat was higher than the P81.84 million in losses due to Typhoon “Aghon” (international name: Ewiniar) recorded by the agency in May.

However, the extreme heat and lack of rain caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon resulted in the sector recording losses amounting to P9.89 billion, per the DA’s final damage report posted on June 6.

Support Typhoon Carina Victims

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

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1975732/agri-losses-from-carina-habagat-reach-p4-7b>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA's BPI sets up new quarantine facility in Subic

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 12:43 PM August 22, 2024

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) has unveiled a P2-million quarantine office in Zambales province to enhance its efforts to address risks caused by plant pests and diseases.

The new office of the BPI's National Plant Quarantine Services Division situated in the Subic Freeport Zone is expected to enhance the effectiveness of border control measures and improve the country's capacity to manage agricultural risks.

In a statement on Wednesday, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said the new facility, albeit modest in size, was "strategically located" in the province's freeport zone, a burgeoning trade and logistics hub.

"The establishment of this new office holds significant importance due to its position as a prominent center for trade and logistics," Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said during the inauguration held Tuesday.

BPI Director Gerard Glenn Panganiban said this office facilitates the quarantine process and hastens trading activity while ensuring biosecurity of incoming commodities through the freeport.

Tiu Laurel said the introduction of pests and diseases can have severe economic repercussions.

"The new quarantine office is expected to play a crucial role in safeguarding the country's agricultural resources and ensuring a stable and secure food supply for future generations," the DA said.

Eduardo Jose Alino, chair and administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, said the new BPI office would ensure that trading partners comply with sanitary and phytosanitary requirements in sourcing imported agricultural products.

<https://business.inquirer.net/476169/das-bpi-sets-up-new-quarantine-facility-in-subic>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

4 firms eye contract to supply PH with ASF vaccines

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 02:28 AM August 23, 2024

At least four companies have expressed interest to supply the Philippines with vaccines against African swine fever (ASF) that has brought down local supply of widely consumed pork, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Constante Palabrica said on Thursday these companies were based in the United States, South Korea, Vietnam and Thailand and their applications to supply the country with badly needed ASF vaccines are being evaluated for safety and effectiveness.

“They conducted studies in their respective countries and we have seen some light in the results of their due diligence, that’s why we entertained their applications. We will go through the process of validating results of the experiment,” Palabrica said.

Palabrica did not provide a date as to when results of the evaluation will be released, but said the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and Food and Drug Administration were “very cautious” about approving the ASF vaccines because of concerns over whether they will actually work as well as the price.

Industry stakeholders had said that current ASF vaccines that cost from P400 to P600 per dose are too expensive for many hog raisers.

“We hope the price is not as high as previously announced last year. Hopefully, the vaccines will be affordable for all because it is not just commercial farms that will use them. We have medium-scale, small-scale and even backyard raisers,” National Federation of Hog Farmers Inc. chair Chester Warren Tan said on Wednesday.

The agriculture official said the DA would consider providing subsidies to backyard raisers, depending on the availability of government funds as the agency is already spending billions of pesos on hog repopulation.

Early this week, the DA met with around 150 farmers to explain the draft guidelines on the controlled use of ASF vaccines, which will be used for the first time.

Some 10,000 vaccines had been purchased from Vietnam to inoculate growers, starting with Lobo town in Batangas, ground zero on the latest resurgence of ASF. The animal disease has infected 11 regions, 22 provinces and 66 municipalities, based on the BAI's tally as of Aug. 8.

<https://business.inquirer.net/476213/4-firms-eye-contract-to-supply-ph-with-asf-vaccines>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Zero ASF in QC, joint checkpoints with BAI continue – Belmonte

By: [Antonio Iñares](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:33 PM August 22, 2024



Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte accepting the Best NCR mayor award from the QCIJ first media awards held recently

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City government has maintained that there are no African Swine Fever (ASF) cases in the city as it intensified its prevention measures.

In support of the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Animal Industry’s (BAI) initiative to curb ASF, the QC Veterinary Department (QCVD) has set up livestock and poultry checkpoints on Pearl Drive along Commonwealth Avenue, Kaingin Road in Balintawak, Mindanao Avenue, Tandang Sora Avenue, and Paang Bundok in N.S. Amoranto.

The QCVD and BAI personnel check all livestock shipments passing through and entering the city to ensure that these are ASF-free.

Since the establishment of the checkpoints last week, the QCVD has inspected a total of 502 shipments, which all came from the provinces of Batangas and Quezon. Of the 502, 452 shipments were released and 46 were returned to origin due to lack of documents.

Four shipments were apprehended. A total of 188 pigs tested positive for ASF, which then were culled and buried.

The BAI and QCVD also held 153 swine for testing as the pigs had ASF symptoms.

“As a highly urbanized city, bawal ang piggery at livestock sa Quezon City kaya pinaiiingting natin ang inspeksyon. Minabuti nating tumulong sa BAI para matiyak na hindi kumalat ang virus sa ibang lugar para hindi makaapekto at makapaminsala sa kabuhayan ng ating QCitizens,” Mayor Joy Belmonte said.

(Piggeries and livestock are prohibited in the city, but we have intensified our inspections. We decided to help the BAI to ensure that the virus will be controlled and will not harm the lives of QCitizens)

City veterinarians also conduct regular inspections of markets and groceries.

City Veterinarian Ana Marie Cabel said the certificates of all pork in markets and groceries are being checked to prevent ASF from entering the city.

The local government will also provide BAI with a two-hectare property which the agency will use as a holding area for trucks carrying hogs.

Quezon City, classified as a highly urbanized city, is prohibited from having piggery and poultry as stated in Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) Resolution No. R-674, S-2000.

In 2020, the city government and the QC Council started implementing City Ordinance 2990-2020, which bans piggeries and poultry farms for food production. The ordinance imposes a penalty of P2,000 or imprisonment of three months or both at the discretion of the court for the first offense.

Second-time violators will pay P3,000 and will be imprisoned for five months. For the third offense, a fine of P5,000 and one-year imprisonment will be meted out.

Belmonte asked backyard hog growers to surrender their pigs immediately. The city will provide them with financial assistance in exchange for the pigs. Penalties will only be imposed on pig owners who have not complied with the directive by Aug. 31.

“We receive reports that some residents still continue to raise pigs as livelihood, but we are hoping they will turn over their pigs and the city through the City Council will help and support them,” Belmonte said.

Once the pigs are determined to be ASF-free, they will be turned over to the Department of Agriculture to be sold in Kadiwa Stores. If contaminated, the swine will be culled and buried.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1975699/zero-asf-in-qc-joint-checkpoints-with-bai-continue-belmonte>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

A call to senators on RCEP implementation

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 02:10 AM August 23, 2024

When the Senate ratifies international trade agreements, such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), it could thereafter maximize the benefits of such deals by performing its oversight function.

I'm glad to note that last August 20, this was effectively done during the RCEP hearing chaired by Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada.

The Senate ratified our RCEP membership on Feb. 21, 2023. Prior to this, 121 organizations had signed a strong position stating that without proper preparation, RCEP would be dangerous especially for the agriculture sector.

This happened when we joined the World Trade Organization (WTO). Vietnam, which prepared well and instituted the necessary competitive measures, benefited from WTO. We did not, and we consequently suffered.

During the hearing, a leader from the Agrifisheries Alliance (AFA), who is also vice president of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), cited the work of UNCTAD senior economist Rashmin Banga. The latter predicted difficulties for the Philippines under RCEP, contrary to the optimistic forecast of another economist referred to by the government. It should be noted that this was the same economist who predicted we would get immediate success from WTO—and the opposite happened.

RCEP results

The Department of Trade and Industry reported results closer to Banga's forecast. They said exports would increase from 2022 to 2023, but it actually decreased from \$78.9 billion to \$73.5 billion. Instead of net foreign investment becoming better, the number went down from \$12.0 billion to \$9.4 billion for the 11 months to November period in 2023. Though there is no direct causal link, it should alert our government that there is still work to be done.

With regard to agriculture, the Senate did well in identifying conditionalities to ensure that the sector won't become a victim to RCEP. AFA had earlier identified six conditionalities, which were eventually adopted by the Senate. Two of these were discussed during the hearing.^[L]^[SEP]AFA had argued that a more expansive free trade could damage our agriculture sector unless we improved our competitiveness through proper use of the Department of Agriculture (DA) budget. In addition, we needed effective antismuggling measures to prevent illegal imports. Simply restoring two effective committees would address these two main concerns. On agriculture development, one third of the DA's small budget (averaging 2 percent of the total budget, compared to Vietnam's 6 percent and Thailand's 4 percent) was lost to unliquidated and unexplained expenses per a Commission on Audit report, indicating massive waste and corruption. Such waste was uncovered for audit years 2020, 2021 and 2022. The good news is that private sector monitoring of the budget started in February this year. The bad news is that this happened 12 months after RCEP ratification. Precious time was already lost.

Antismuggling

United Nations Comtrade statistics showed that the difference between the amount exporters reported to us and the amount we reportedly received (a good indicator of smuggling) more than doubled from P500 billion in 2019 to P1.2 trillion in 2021.

The good news is that a public-private antismuggling committee was finally formed. The bad news is that this conditionality was not fully met. This committee is limited to only the DA participating, and therefore lacks clout. In the past, the committee was composed of various agencies in tandem with the private sector. They also had the power to report to the president. Smuggling decreased, but the committee was later abolished for having caught a "big fish."

This lack of clout is probably why this committee could meet with the Customs Commissioner only last July 9—or one year and five months after RCEP ratification. During all this time, there was no Senate hearing on RCEP.

The 121 organizations that expressed their serious concerns on RCEP are disappointed that it has taken this long for a hearing to take place.

The Senate must now continue its critical oversight function by conducting a follow-up hearing within the next three months. This will motivate the Executive branch to take the quick action we need.

<https://business.inquirer.net/476227/a-call-to-senators-on-rcep-implementation>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

BAI checkpoints stop ASF-infected hogs from reaching Luzon provinces

By: [Carmela Reyes-Estropo](#) - Correspondent / [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:02 AM August 23, 2024



INSPECTION In this photo taken last week, Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) personnel manning a checkpoint flag down a delivery truck for inspection along a road in Quezon City as the agency intensifies measures to prevent the spread of African swine fever. —PHOTO COURTESY OF BULACAN PROVINCIAL VETERINARY OFFICE

CITY OF MALOLOS—The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) has inspected 735 vehicles at eight strategic checkpoints across Metro Manila and Bulacan province over the past week, preventing hogs suspected of being infected with African swine fever (ASF) from reaching other areas in Luzon.

According to Voltaire Basinang, the provincial veterinarian of Bulacan, the BAI operations, which began on Aug. 14 in Quezon City and the cities of Valenzuela, Malabon and Manila, have protected Bulacan and other provinces in Central Luzon, as well as the Ilocos and Cagayan Valley regions, from becoming distribution sites for ASF-infected hogs.

Basinang, in an interview on Thursday, did not disclose the number of hogs involved in these vehicle inspections.

The checkpoints were established based on recommendations from Basinang's office during recent meetings.

This led to the testing of hogs from eight of the intercepted vehicles.

Six of the vehicles inspected by BAI personnel carried hogs that tested positive for ASF. The infected animals were "condemned" and buried in an undisclosed location in Central Luzon.

Basinang said 67 vehicles were asked to return to their origins due to the lack of necessary documents, although the hogs had tested negative for ASF.

The remaining vehicles were allowed to pass through after presenting valid documents proving the animals were ASF-free, he said.

"There is an accreditation process from the BAI before transport permits are issued. Blood samples from the hogs must be tested before they can be accredited to market their products," Basinang told the Inquirer.

Tests

Meat inspectors in slaughterhouses and public markets across all 20 towns and four cities in Bulacan ensure the quality of meat distributed in their areas, he added.

According to Gov. Daniel Fernando, regular blood collection and testing are being done in Bulacan farms, especially after an ASF case was detected in Bocaue in July. The town was later classified as a red or infected zone for swine fever.

In April, the province was declared in the pink zone category, indicating that it was ASF-free.

Fernando said municipal agricultural offices in Bulacan carry out regular blood testing (every month, every three months and every six months) in their respective farms.

According to the provincial agriculture office, between 400,000 and 500,000 commercial medium-scale and backyard hog farms are operating in Bulacan, which was among the areas hardest-hit by ASF in 2019.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1975729/bai-checkpoints-stop-asf-infected-hogs-from-reaching-luzon-provinces>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Inflation could further ease in Q4

August 23, 2024 | 12:34 am



Various dishes are on display at a food stall along Kalaw Extension in Manila. — PHILIPPINE STAR/RYAN BALDEMOR

By **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**, *Reporter*

PHILIPPINE headline inflation could ease to less than 2% in the fourth quarter of this year, Nomura Global Markets Research said in a report.

Nomura said it is “penciling in a trajectory in which headline inflation drops to less than 2% by fourth quarter 2024, a substantial decline from 4.4% in July, and thereafter hovering within a similar range for most of the first half of 2025.”

Nomura said it sees inflation settling at 2.8% this year and further easing to 2.3% in 2025.

These forecasts are lower than the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas’ (BSP) own projections. The central bank expects inflation to average 3.4% in 2024 and 3.1% next year.

Nomura said its inflation outlook is mainly driven by the recent cut in tariffs on rice imports.

In June, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. issued an executive order reducing the tariff on rice imports to 15% from 35%, until 2028 to tame rice prices.

Rice inflation, which accounts for nearly half of overall inflation, eased to 20.9% in July from 22.5% a month ago. This marked the fourth straight month of slower rice inflation.

Nomura said it sees the BSP further cutting rates for the rest of this year.

“Overall, we reiterate our forecasts that BSP will cut by 25 basis points (bps) each in the last two meetings of the year, i.e. in October and December,” it said.

The Monetary Board last week reduced the target reverse repurchase (RRP) rate by 25 bps to 6.25% from the over 17-year high of 6.5%.

BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. said that the central bank could deliver one more 25-bp cut in the fourth quarter.

“Beyond that, we also expect BSP to cut in the first three meetings in 2025 before pausing from there. This would bring the RRP rate to 5% by May 2025, i.e. a total of 150-bp cuts in this cycle,” it added.

Nomura said the BSP’s next policy decisions will largely be driven by the inflation path in the coming months.

“If inflation continues on a downward path, BSP can look to further remove the restrictiveness in the monetary stance to support a recovery in domestic demand and overall growth.”

“Moreover, we continue to think the Fed turning dovish will play a role, and its easing cycle underway from September, as our US team expects, should support further BSP’s consecutive rate cuts in the coming months,” it added.

The US Federal Reserve appears to be very much on track for an interest rate cut in September after a “vast majority” of officials said such an action was likely, according to the minutes of the US central bank’s July 30-31 meeting, Reuters reported.

The minutes, which were released on Wednesday, even showed some policy makers would have been willing to reduce borrowing costs at last month’s gathering.

The policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee left its benchmark interest rate unchanged in the 5.25%-5.5% range on July 31 but opened the door to a cut at the Sept. 17-18 meeting.

Financial markets have been expecting the September meeting to kick off the Fed’s policy easing, with as much as a full percentage point worth of rate cuts expected by the end of this year.

PESO IMPACT

Meanwhile, Bank of America (BofA) Global Research in a separate report noted the recent impact of the BSP’s policy easing on the peso.

“The Philippine peso has strengthened versus the US dollar, but less so compared to peers in the region, taking cues from the BSP’s rate cut in the last meeting and dovish guidance for another possible cut this year,” it said.

BofA now expects the peso to average P56 against the greenback by yearend from its earlier forecast of P57 per dollar.

“With the Fed cutting cycle likely commencing soon, Philippine peso could still appreciate versus the US dollar over time, which would keep BSP relatively comfortable on FX (foreign exchange) moves,” it said.

However, BofA also noted that the peso may be sensitive to the Fed’s moves.

“Lower rates in the Philippines have raised the likelihood of even a narrower interest rate buffer against US dollar rates. That may gain importance as a factor for corporate hedging behavior once the US dollar stabilizes,” it said.

“This pressure could increase if the US dollar strength picks up or US yields move higher again, increasing Philippine peso sensitivity to the US policy outlook.”

The peso closed at P56.333 against the dollar on Thursday, strengthening by 16.7 centavos from its P56.50 finish on Wednesday. This was its strongest finish in more than four months or since its P56.315 close on April 2.

The local currency has been trading at the P57- or P58-a-dollar level in the past months.

“The Philippine peso has weakened against most Asian peers this year, partly as a result of BSP’s dovish bias. With the next policy meeting some time away, US dollar direction could be the key factor driving the peso in the near term,” it added.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2024/08/23/615746/inflation-could-further-ease-in-q4/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

ASF vaccine subsidy studied for small-scale hog farmers

August 22, 2024 | 8:47 pm



PEXELS-BARBARA BARBOSA

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said that it is considering a subsidy for African Swine Fever (ASF) vaccines to be distributed to backyard hog farmers.

“We have talked about this in the DA. This would depend on the availability of our funds... we are already spending a lot, especially on hog repopulation,” Agriculture Assistant Secretary for Poultry and Swine Constance J. Palabrica told reporters on Thursday.

Hog farmers have been battling for a more affordable ASF vaccine to minimize the impact on production costs, which could flow on to consumer prices.

The government has yet to release an official price for the ASF vaccine from Vietnam, pending the approval of a commercial rollout.

“It could be subsidized depending on the study of the DA. It would be for backyard (hog farmers) because they cannot afford it. The large farms will not be subsidized,” Mr. Palabrica added.

The DA has allocated P350 million to procure 600,000 doses of ASF vaccine for limited release in test conditions during the quarter.

He said that five other companies have expressed interest in applying for vaccine certification from the Food and Drug Administration.

He said the companies are from the US, Vietnam, South Korea, and Thailand.

“They have a process to go through because we cannot approve it until we go through (it)... and prove that they could be effective,” Mr. Palabrica said.

Additionally, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) said it will need to collect blood samples before injecting the vaccine, which can be used only on healthy animals.

“Only healthy pigs will be vaccinated to prevent the spread of the virus and minimize possible virus mutation,” the BAI said in a statement.

It added that local government units will be tasked with validating that biosecurity measures at hog farmers meet government standards before the vaccine is administered. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/08/22/615759/asf-vaccine-subsidy-studied-for-small-scale-hog-farmers/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Clark food hub bill clears House panel

August 22, 2024 | 8:47 pm



DAVAO CITY AGRI OFFICE

A HOUSE of Representatives committee approved a bill on Tuesday seeking to establish a national food hub at the Clark airport complex in Central Luzon, which is intended to streamline the food logistics system.

The House trade and industry committee endorsed House Bill No. 10678, which proposes to set up a food hub within the Clark Freeport Zone.

“Establishing a national food hub in Clark will play a crucial role in shortening the supply chain from producer to consumer,” Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez said in a statement on Thursday.

“(It) will not only standardize logistics but also ensure the efficient movement of food products, thereby enhancing overall efficiency,” he added.

The 62-hectare Clark food hub will contain state-of-the-art food warehouses, cold storage facilities, and wholesale and retail market space.

The first phase of the P8.5-billion food hub project is expected to be completed by the end of 2027, Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC) President Arrey A. Perez said in July.

The CIAC, which operates the 2,300-hectare Clark aviation complex, will also operate the food hub.

“As soon as this proposal becomes a law, it will bolster agro-logistics as support to our country’s robust agricultural production,” Mr. Perez said in the same statement.

“It will also enhance freight transport services, mobility, and access to key economic zones, toward seamless logistics and efficient supply chains,” he added.

The food hub will also help develop the so-called Luzon Economic Corridor, Mr. Perez said, noting the project will help better position the Philippines as a “regional hub for agribusiness and logistics in Asia-Pacific.”

The approval of the bill at committee level is a step towards improving food logistics, Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs Frederick D. Go said in the same statement.

“We continue to pursue initiatives that contribute to increasing agriculture production, and improving the food logistical chain,” he said. “The Clark National Food Hub is a step in this direction, and we look forward to its successful establishment as a sustainable food security solution.”

The bill will be debated next by the House appropriations and ways and means committees for the measure’s funding and tax incentive provisions. — **Kenneth Christiane L. Basilio**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/08/22/615758/clark-food-hub-bill-clears-house-panel/>

REMATE:

‘Pagbebenta’ ng pating sa bayan sa Sorsogon tinatalupan ng BFAR

August 22, 2024 17:48



Larawan mula sa Bicol News Facebook page

LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, Philippines- Sinimulan na ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) ang inspeksyon nito sa isang public market sa bayan ng Matnog sa Sorsogon mayapos mag-viral sa social media ang larawan ng mga ibinebentang pating at pagi noong nakaraang linggo.

Pinaalalahanan ng BFAR nitong Martes ang publiko na ang whitetip reef sharks ilan pang species ng pating ay protektado sa ilalim ng isang international convention at mga batas ng Pilipinas.

Makikita sa ilang larawan na naka-post sa social media na limang coral catsharks (*Atelomycterus marmoratus*) at dalawang whitetip reef sharks (*Triaenodon obesus*) ang ibinebenta sa isang pampublikong pamilihan kasama ang sea rays.

Hanggang nitong Miyerkules, nakakuha na ang post ng 11,000 reactions, 1,086 comments at mahigit 3,800 shares sa Facebook.

Dahil dito, nakipag-ugnayan na sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Matnog at nagsagawa ng information campaign sa Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Cites).

“The coral catshark is not listed under the Cites but its capture and trade are covered by other applicable regulations,” ayon sa BFAR.

Samantala, ipinagbabawal ang panghuhuli, posesyon, transportasyon, at pagbebenta whitetip reef sharks sa ilalim ng Appendix II ng Cites at maaaring magmula ng P300,000 hanggang P3 milyon ang lalabag, batay sa ahensya.

Nag-abiso ang BFAR sa publiko na ilang shark species ang protektado sa ilalim ng Cites “to [prevent] overexploitation and [ensure] the sustainability of marine ecosystems.”

Pinoprotektahan din ng Republic Act No. 10654, o ang amendments sa Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, ang mga pating at manta rays laban sa “illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing of endangered, threatened or vulnerable species.”

“This legislation underscores the government’s commitment to preserving marine biodiversity, especially species that play vital roles in maintaining ecological balance,” giit ng BFAR. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/pagbebenta-ng-pating-sa-bayan-sa-sorsogon-tinatalupan-ng-bfar/>

REMATE:

Pinal na agri damage sa hagupit ng Habagat, Carina pumalo sa P4.72B

August 22, 2024 16:54

MANILA, Philippines- Umabot sa P4 bilyong halaga ang nalugi at napinsala sa agriculture sector ng bansa dahil sa malawak na pagkasira dala ng pinagsamang epekto ng Super Typhoon Carina at pinalakas na Southwest Monsoon o Habagat noong Hulyo.

Sinabi ng Department of Agriculture (DA) sa kanilang “final bulletin” ukol sa sanib-pwersang weather disturbances, ipinalabas noong Agosto 21, iniulat ng DA-Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Operations Center ang kabuuang production value loss sa mga pananim, livestock, poultry, at fisheries na umabot sa P4.72 bilyon matapos ang masusing assessment ng regional field offices ng ahensya sa mga lugar na apektado ng weather events.

Ang damage at losses na natamo ng mga lupang sakahan at palaisdaan sa 12 rehiyon gaya ng Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol Region, Western at Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Soccsksargen at Caraga, ay nakaapekto sa 82,824 ektarya ng agricultural areas.

Ang kabuuang volume production losses sa apektadong lugar ay nananatili sa 68,690 metric tons (MT).

“Broken down, rice is the most affected commodity, sustaining damage worth P1.08 billion with total volume loss of 18,629 MT,” ayon sa DA.

Tinuran ng DA na ang apektadong rice area na 67,432 ektarya ay katumbas ng 2.51% ng kabuuang target area na nakatanim sa 2,678,766 ektarya, habang ang production loss na 18,629 MT ay katumbas ng 0.16% target production ng 11,663,214 MT, kapwa para sa wet cropping season ngayong 2024.

Ang palaisdaan ay may P783.96 milyong halaga ng pagkalugi, naapektuhan ang 8,395 mangingisda.

Ikatlo naman ang high-value crops na may value of production loss na P691.62 milyon, may katumbas na 19,969 MT ng nasirang pananim.

Nakitaan naman ng pinsala at pagkalugi ang mais na may kabuuang P469.45 milyon o 18,170 MT ng volume damaged.

“The livestock and poultry sub-sector, meanwhile, sustained P38.26 million worth of losses, equivalent to 25,855 heads of chicken, swine, cattle, carabao, gota, duck, horse, quail, turkey, guinea fowl, and buffalo killed,” ayon sa ulat.

Nakitaan ang Cassava ng P12 milyong pinsala na may 472 MT volume destroyed.

Idagdag pa rito, ang pinsala sa irrigation facilities ay P1.64 bilyon; agricultural infrastructure, P4.44 milyon; at machineries P4.01 milyon.

Sinabi ng DA na ang regional field offices nito sa pakikipagtulungan sa mga apektadong local government units at kinauukulang DRRM offices ay aktibong nakikipag-ugnayan sa isinasagawang masusing validation at assessment sa epekto ng pinagsamang Southwest Monsoon at Typhoon Carina sa sektor ng agrikultura at palaisdaan.

“Best possible efforts are also being undertaken to carry out assistance and appropriate interventions to the affected farmers and fisherfolk,” wika ng DA.

Samantala, sinabi ng Agriculture Department na maayos nitong ihahatid ang iba't ibang uri ng tulong gaya ng:

- 64,404 sako ng bigas at 45,307 sako ng corn seeds na nagkakahalaga ng P301.72 milyon
- 1,300 kgs, 63,124 pakete at 370 lata ng vegetable seeds na nagkakahalaga ng P17.63 milyon
- P6.31 milyong halaga ng bio control measure

“Fingerlings, fishing gears and paraphernalia from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Program from the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) with loanable amount of up to P25,000 payable in three years at zero interest,” ayon sa DA.

May available funds mula sa Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) para bayad-danyos sa mga apektadong magsasaka.

“This is the final DA DRRM OpCen Bulletin for the combined effects of the SW Monsoon and Typhoon Carina in the agriculture and fisheries sector,” anito. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/pinal-na-agri-damage-sa-hagupit-ng-habagat-carina-pumalo-sa-p4-72b/>

MANILA STANDARD

Study seeks review of pesticide rules to boost drone potential



By [Manila Standard Business](#)

August 23, 2024, 7:35 pm

A 2023 New Humanitarian study called for a review government regulations on pesticide application being implemented by the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA).

The study also underscores the immense potential of advanced drone technology to transform Philippine agriculture, particularly in rice production.

“While the Philippines is on the cusp of achieving rice self-sufficiency, the potential of drone technology in agriculture is being stifled by outdated and unclear regulations. These roadblocks not only hinder innovation but also threaten the progress we’ve made in securing our nation’s food future. It’s crucial that we adopt forward-thinking policies that empower farmers with the tools they need to succeed, rather than impede them,” said Philippine Agricultural Drone Association president Jen Subang.

Drones offer precision farming capabilities that could significantly increase yields, reduce pesticide use and improve overall resource management. The FPA’s regulations,

however, are impeding the widespread adoption of this transformative technology, Subang said.

The study noted that ambiguities surrounding approved pesticides, accreditation processes and off-label use create uncertainty for farmers and drone operators as the bureaucratic hurdles stifle investment and innovation, jeopardizing the Philippines' long-term goal of rice self-sufficiency. Othel V. Campos

While the country has made commendable progress towards self-sufficiency, with a projected 95-day rice stock by year-end, this achievement should not overshadow the lingering vulnerabilities in the agricultural sector.

A 95-day supply remains susceptible to external shocks, and the reliance on imports persists, it said.

The study recommends fostering an environment that encourages responsible innovation to address these challenges and achieve sustainable self-sufficiency. The FPA can play a crucial role by revising its regulations to be clear, supportive and forward-looking, according to the study.

<https://manilastandard.net/business/314488076/study-seeks-review-of-pesticide-rules-to-boost-drone-potential.html>

Damage to agri at P4.73B

By Jed Macapagal

August 23, 2024



The provincial government clears the roads of Naguilian town, La Union of debris following the on-slaught of Super Typhoon Carina last month. (Photo courtesy of Province of La Union)

The cost of damage to agriculture on the combined effects of southwest monsoon and typhoon Carina amounted to P4.73 billion, according to data from the Department of Agriculture's (DA) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Operations Center.

The DA attached agency said in its 1 p.m. bulletin on Wednesday the southwest monsoon and Carina affected 68,690 metric tons (MT) of goods tended by 137,999 farmers and fisherfolk in 82,824 hectares (ha) of affected areas.

The agency said of the 82,824 ha affected, 60,106 ha or 72.57 percent have a chance for recovery and the remaining 22,720 ha or 27.43 percent have no chance to be restored.

Data on damage was derived from recorded from 12 regions: Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western and Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Soccsksargen and Caraga,

Irrigation facilities had the highest value of damage of P1.64 billion.

It was followed by rice at P1.08 billion equivalent to 18,629 MT and fisheries, P783.96 million affecting 8,395 fisherfolk.

High value crops sustained a total damage of P691.62 million equivalent to volume loss of 19,969 MT; corn with P469.45 million for 18,170 MT of damaged crops; P38.26 million for livestock and poultry equivalent to 25,855 heads; P12 million for cassava at 472 MT; P4.44 million for agri infrastructure; and P4.01 million for machineries and equipment.

DA said as form of assistance, it distributed 64,404 bags of rice, 45,307 bags of corn seeds, 1,300 kgs, 63,124 packs and 370 cans of vegetable seeds; apart from P6.31 million worth of bio control measures.

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

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

https://malaya.com.ph/news_business/damage-to-agri-at-p4-73b/