

CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY AUGUST 27, 2024

A. MANILA BULLETIN:

PH questions China's commitment to de-escalate tensions in WPS after series of aggressions

PH more focused on deterring armed attack over WPS situation

Romualdez urges Beijing: Pursue dialogue, not aggression to resolve conflict in WPS

B. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Ex-DA chief wants hog vaccination suspended

Kadiwa ng Pangulo to be opened in VisMin

C. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA must focus on public goods

PH buys more pork overseas amid swine flu, El Niño

Slowdown in rice imports seen by Sept

CA: Only Bt eggplant, Golden Rice covered by ruling banning GMOs

'100% pure New Zealand' dairy firm busted for using Indian butter

D. BUSINESS WORLD:

Rice industry wants more say in review of tariff EO

Meat imports rise 9.6% in first half

More investment urged to boost agri production

How much is my *pechay*?

E. REMATE:

1 toneladang bocha nakumpiska sa Maynila

F. THE MANILA TIMES

Cagayan Valley farmers warned vs fake fertilizers

Meat imports up nearly 10% in H1

G. MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

Meat imports rise 10%

PHL meat imports up 9.6% in 1st semester

MPIC food unit confident of hitting financial goals—exec

H. PILIPINO STAR NGAYON

Food Sufficiency...Caryana Monastery Farm

MANILA BULLETIN:

PH questions China's commitment to de-escalate tensions in WPS after series of aggressions

BY [BETHEENA UNITE](#)

Aug 26, 2024 02:54 PM

The Philippine Government has questioned China's "supposed commitment" in de-escalating the situation in the West Philippine Sea after the series of aggressions by Chinese maritime forces over the past week.



A Chinese vessel rams Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) vessel BRP Datu Sanday during a resupply mission in the West Philippine Sea on Aug. 25, 2024. (Photo: NTF-WPS)

Manila through the National Maritime Council (NMC) deplored Beijing's "repeated aggressive, unprofessional and illegal actions" against Philippine vessels and aircraft which were conducting routine maritime patrol over Bajo de Masinloc and Zamora Reef and regular humanitarian assistance mission in Escoda Shoal.

"That these provocative and dangerous actions were made in the space of only a week is alarming, and calls into question China's supposed commitment to de-escalate the situation in the area and create a conducive environment for dialogue and consultation," the NMC said in a statement on Monday, Aug. 26.

The Philippines reiterated that the activities by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) are lawful and are in accordance with its mandates.

The NMC tagged as "unsafe aerial maneuvers" the actions by Chinese aircraft against BFAR aircraft which was undertaking routine maritime patrol over Bajo de Masinloc and Zamora Reef.

"It should be made clear that the Philippines has never provoked the People's Republic of China (PRC), which in turn has relied on deliberate and intentional harassment and intimidation to interfere with Philippine sovereign operations, and endanger the safety of Filipinos aboard Philippine vessels and aircraft conducting their routine missions," NMC said.

It further lamented that China's illegal activities "reveal its wanton disregard for UNCLOS and the 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Award, and existing international laws and regulations that are meant to ensure the safety of ships and aircraft."

"Uncowed by these latest incidents, the Philippines will continue to stand firm in the conduct of its lawful operations and expose the illegal presence and violations of Chinese vessels and aircraft within the Philippines' maritime zones," the maritime council said.

It also expressed appreciation for the calls made by the international community against China's aggressive actions.

The NMC further stated that the Philippines will never waver in exercising its sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction, and defending its maritime and archipelagic interests consistent with international law.

It added that the country will continue to pursue the proper diplomatic approaches to resolve ongoing maritime issues, urging China to return to the path of constructive dialogue on matters related to the West Philippine Sea.

On Sunday, Aug. 25, China Coast Guard (CCG) vessels and Chinese maritime militia vessels blocked, rammed, and fired water cannons against a BFAR vessel, BRP Datu Sanday, that was conducting a regular humanitarian assistance mission and providing food, water, and fuel to Filipino artisanal fishermen in Escoda Shoal.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/26/ph-questions-china-s-commitment-to-de-escalate-tensions-in-wps-after-series-of-aggressions>

MANILA BULLETIN:

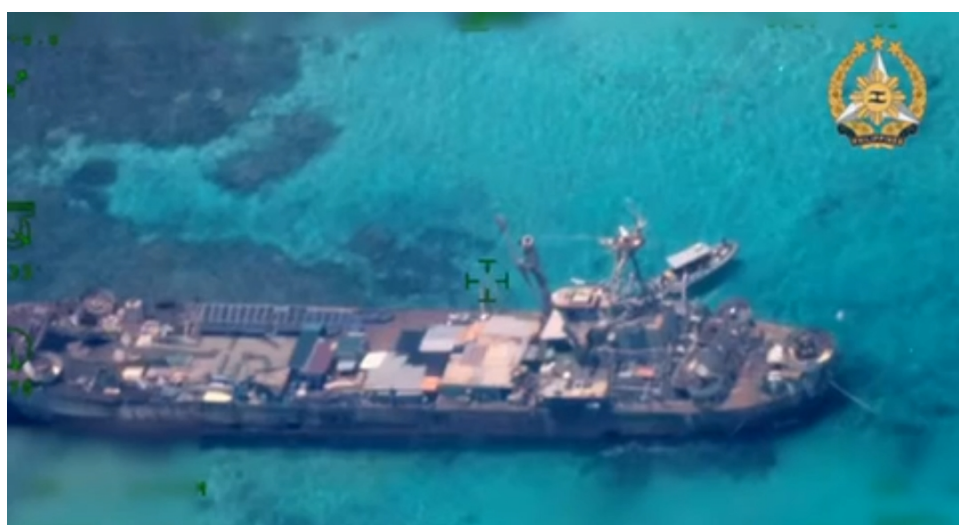
PH more focused on deterring armed attack over WPS situation

AFP tests its own flares

BY [BETHEENA UNITE](#)

Aug 26, 2024 12:20 PM

The Philippines is more focused on deterring armed attack rather than considering it amid the series of China's aggression in the West Philippine Sea (WPS).



A rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) reaches the starboard side of BRP Sierra Madre in Ayungin Shoal to deliver fresh supplies for Filipino troops manning the outpost in the West Philippine Sea on March 23, 2024. (File Photo/Courtesy of AFP)

Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Gilbert Teodoro said on Monday, Aug. 26, that rather than focusing on discussing whether an armed attack must be considered in view of China's series of dangerous activities in the West Philippine Sea, he is more focused on preventing it from happening.

"You know that is putting the cart before the horse. Let us deter an armed attack. That is the more important thing here," Teodoro said in an interview on the sidelines of the commemoration of the National Heroes Day in Taguig City.

"That is what I am focused on doing. Everybody is focused on armed attack. Let us make ourselves strong enough so that doesn't happen," he further said.

According to the National Maritime Council (NMC), on Aug. 19, Chinese Coast Guard (CCG) vessels rammed and damaged two Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) vessels in the vicinity of Escoda Shoal.

In the same week, China launched flares on a Philippine aircraft—Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) plane during a maritime domain awareness flight within the territorial sea of Pag-asa (Thitu) Island on Aug. 22, the PCG reported.

PH tested its own flares in WPS

In a separate interview, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief Romero Brawner said that the Philippines tested its own flares after China used similar devices to deter Philippine air patrols over the West Philippine Sea.

"[N]ung Friday ako po ay sumakay sa F15 natin at nagpatrolya kami sa West Philippine Sea. At tinesting din natin yung flares natin (Last Friday, I was onboard the F15 and we patrolled over the WPS. And we tested our flares)," Brawner said when asked if the Philippines also has the same capability.

"So we have that capability but then again because we follow international laws, hindi natin iyon ginagawa (we do not do that) on the ground," Brawner added.

China has deployed flares on Philippine aircrafts thrice this month. Brawner said this is already considered an escalation of the situation with China.

"It is an escalation, definitely. Pero di lang sa atin ginagawa iyon. Pati sa US ginagawa nila, pati sa Australia ginagawa nila yung pagre-release ng flares (But this is not only done against us. They are also releasing flares against the US and Australia). This is a form of warning the other side. But then again for us this is a dangerous maneuver kasi kapag yung flares tumama sa atin (because once the flares hit us), that is very dangerous," Brawner stressed.

The AFP Chief also said that the country will continue to make its presence seen in the WPS, and will continue its legitimate operations in the area.

"Kaya't tuloy tuloy po yung ginagawa nating mga (We will continue with our) actions so that we can maintain our presence in the area. Iyon po ang importante— yung presence natin — dahil (That's important—our presence—because) once we give up, once umalis tayo diyan sa (we leave) West Philippine Sea, we don't know what will happen baka gawin artificial islands ulit yung Escoda Shoal kaya kailangan nandoon tayo (they might turn Escoda Shoal into an artificial island again so we need to be there)," the AFP official said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/26/ph-more-focused-on-deterring-armed-attack-over-wps-situation>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Romualdez urges Beijing: Pursue dialogue, not aggression to resolve conflict in WPS

BY [HANNAH L. TORREGOZA](#)

Aug 26, 2024 11:58 AM

House Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez on Monday, August 26 urged China to pursue dialogue and consultations with Philippine authorities as a way to resolve the conflict in the West Philippine Sea and not resort to aggression or confrontation.

Romualdez made the call as he expressed alarm over what he described as the “increasingly aggressive” actions of the Chinese Coast Guard (CCG) in the WPS, especially on the recent incident involving a Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) vessel BRP Datu Sanday (MMOV 3302).

The BFAR ship was resupplying fishermen in Hasa-Hasa Shoal, which is about 60 nautical miles from Rizal, Palawan, and Escoda Shoal, located around 110 nautical miles away also from Rizal town.

“Again, we condemn in the strongest terms this newest reckless and dangerous maneuvers by the China Coast Guard on our vessels, this time a Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) ship conducting a humanitarian mission by resupplying Filipino fishermen with food, medical supplies and diesel,” Romualdez said.

“This is the second time in about a week that China used its might to harass and terrorize our vessels and personnel inside our own territory,” he said, referring to the August 19 incident, when the CCG rammed two Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) vessels.

“This area is clearly within the 200-mile exclusive economic zone of the Philippines under the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea, to which China and the Philippines are signatories,” Romualdez said referring to the Hasa-Hasa Shoal and Escoda Shoal.

He noted that the two shoals are more than 1,000 miles from China.

Romualdez repeated his appeal for China to respect and follow the international law it signed, and to exercise restraint and stop all aggressive actions.

Nevertheless, he said the government under the leadership of President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr. will remain committed to upholding the country’s dignity, territorial integrity and sovereignty.

https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/26/romualdez-urges-beijing-pursue-dialogue-not-aggression-to-resolve-conflict-in-wps#google_vignette

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Ex-DA chief wants hog vaccination suspended

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

August 27, 2024 | 12:00am



Montemayor made the appeal as the BAI is preparing to conduct a controlled trial in Batangas on Sept. 2.

BusinessWorld / File

MANILA, Philippines — Former agriculture secretary Leonardo Montemayor yesterday urged the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) to suspend the vaccination of hogs against African swine fever due to questions on the vaccine's safety and efficacy.

Montemayor made the appeal as the BAI is preparing to conduct a controlled trial in Batangas on Sept. 2.

In a message to The STAR, Montemayor said the ASF vaccine that would be used in the trial did not pass through the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines.

“NCBP approval is needed before any product resulting from genetic modification can be released for field trials or commercial sales,” Montemayor said.

Earlier, Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said the vaccination of hogs would start on Sept. 2 and the 10,000 doses of vaccine acquired through emergency procurement have arrived in the country.

“Considering that the AVAC vaccine from Vietnam used a gene-altered virus, did it pass through the NCBP before it was issued a certificate of product registration by our Food and Drug Administration?” Montemayor asked.

He said the outbreaks in Batangas and in other areas in the country should not be used to justify the use of a vaccine without undergoing proper procedures.

“I would suggest a suspension of field trials or controlled rollouts using the AVAC or other vaccines until such time that major concerns and issues are properly addressed and resolved,” Montemayor said.

He said the government and other industry stakeholders should concentrate on culling infected pigs, indemnifying hog raisers, applying strict biocontrol measures and hog repopulation after the lapse of a reasonable period.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/08/27/2380762/ex-da-chief-wants-hog-vaccination-suspended>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Kadiwa ng Pangulo to be opened in VisMin

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

August 27, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Several Kadiwa ng Pangulo stores will be opened in the Visayas and Mindanao next month to sell rice at P29 per kilo and other basic commodities at an affordable price.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. yesterday said the government is aiming to open at least 60 Kadiwa stores across the country next month, to give Filipinos access to affordable agricultural products.

Tiu Laurel said the move was part of a broader plan to offer farm produce, including rice, at a lower price in Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon.

He said the Department of Agriculture intends to open Kadiwa stores in every municipality.

Aside from helping consumers, the program also provides farmers' cooperatives and associations with a venue to market their produce.

“We have identified at least 650 sites for the Kadiwa ng Pangulo stores. But in order to achieve the 1,500 target, we need to open at least one store a day, which is almost impossible. That’s why we need the help of the private sector,” he said.

Tiu Laurel said the DA is talking to food manufacturers to supply Kadiwa stores with basic goods, including canned goods, cooking oil, condiments and fresh fish and poultry.

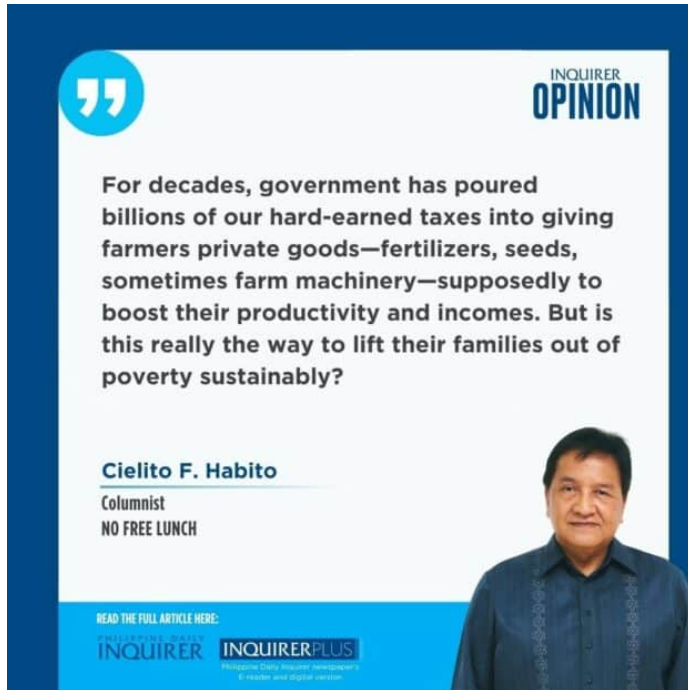
<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/08/27/2380749/kadiwa-ng-pangulo-be-opened-vismin>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA must focus on public goods

By: [Cielito F. Habito](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:35 AM August 27, 2024



Mang Toto, a Bicolano rice farmer in his 60s, had seen it all—typhoons, droughts, fluctuating rice prices, and promises from every new administration to uplift their lives. He recalled how in one campaign season, he received sacks of free fertilizer and some seeds from the government. But when the excitement had died down, so did the promises. The fertilizers were quickly used up, the seeds planted, and Mang Toto was back where he began—left to contend with the unpredictability of farming with little more than his farm implements and a prayer.

Mang Toto is just one of millions with the same story to tell. For decades, government has poured billions of our hard-earned taxes into giving farmers private goods—fertilizers, seeds, sometimes farm machinery—supposedly to boost their productivity and incomes. But is this really the way to lift their families out of poverty sustainably? There's one important principle I learned from my University of the Philippines Los Baños mentors as an agricultural economics undergraduate in the early '70s, and on to my Harvard professors in my doctoral studies in the early '80s: taxpayer money to

help the poor, especially small farmers, is best spent on public goods, not private goods. Its benefits will be more widespread, lasting, and equitable.

Two qualities mark private goods: they are excludable and rival. Excludable means that a sack of fertilizer sold (or given) to Mang Toto is his alone; rival means that other farmers cannot benefit from the same fertilizer he has used. In contrast, a public good like a streetlamp cannot exclude anyone from its light, and allow its use to be limited only to those who would pay for it (non-excludable). And all can equally enjoy the benefit of the lamp's light without depriving others of it (non-rival). It falls on government to provide essential public goods as no private investor would, because once in place, no one can be forced to pay for it to recover costs. Anyone can, and will, just get a "free ride."

In Isabela province, farmers struggled with inconsistent water supply for years, relying on rain-fed agriculture that left them vulnerable to drought. When the government invested in a large-scale irrigation system, the impact was immediate and far-reaching. Suddenly, farmers could plant multiple crops per year, significantly increasing their yields and incomes—not just for one cropping season, but for generations of farmers to come.

When government focuses on private goods, it addresses symptoms, not root causes. Fertilizers boost yields, but amount to nothing if lack of irrigation and drainage systems makes farming vulnerable to both droughts and floods. Seeds raise production, but won't matter if roads to the markets are impassable in wet season. Too often, fertilizers and seeds given are not even the right ones needed. Machinery improves farm efficiency, but won't help if the harvest spoils for lack of dryers or cold storage. Public goods, being non-excludable and non-rival, benefit everyone, and one farmer's use of a communal irrigation system, farm-to-market road, or post-harvest facility doesn't deprive others of its use. Public goods benefit all and not just a select few lucky enough to receive government handouts. The sad reality is that studies have consistently shown fertilizers and hybrid seeds distributed by government to have benefited the more capable and better-off farmers, and less those in most need.

Knowledge is an often-overlooked public good. Research and extension services to give farmers access to the latest farming techniques, technologies, and market

information, are a powerful tool to improve productivity, but are often underfunded or nonexistent. In Guinayangan, Quezon, coconut farmers struggled for years with low yields, frequent typhoon damage, and declining incomes. But when the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction partnered with the local government and the Department of Agriculture to train them on intercropping, they learned to grow high-value crops like cassava, cacao, coffee, pineapples, potato, and peanut alongside the coconut trees. This simple change greatly boosted their incomes and improved their farms' sustainability. Their new knowledge was a public good that benefited not just individual farmers, but spread throughout the community, lifting many out of poverty.

Focusing on public goods helps farmers not only efficiently, but also equitably. With private goods, some farmers are inevitably left out due to bureaucratic inefficiencies, corruption, and the sheer scale of the farming sector. But public goods by nature are available to all, and their benefits go well beyond one cropping season. Rather than focus on private goods that help individual farmers for one crop, taxpayer money is better spent on public goods that benefit the entire agricultural sector over the long haul.

cielito.habito@gmail.com

<https://opinion.inquirer.net/176344/da-must-focus-on-public-goods>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

PH buys more pork overseas amid swine flu, El Niño

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 02:06 AM August 27, 2024



PRECAUTION An officer from the meat inspection office of Marikina City inspects freshly slaughtered carcass inside a delivery van in this Aug. 15 photo. —LYN RILLON

The resurgence of African swine fever (ASF) in certain parts of the Philippines, coupled with the El Niño phenomenon, pushed the volume of imported pork in the country up by almost 10 percent in the first half of the year.

Meat imports totaled 647.75 million kilograms (kg) in the first semester of 2024, an increase of 9.6 percent from 590.77 million kg in the same period a year ago, data from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) showed.

The first-semester meat imports represent 53.8 percent of last year's volume of 1.2 billion kg.

The volume had been rising from February to May before declining in end-June, around the time President Marcos retained lower import duties on agricultural commodities.

“The reduction in supply caused by the continuing effects of ASF coupled with El Niño most likely encouraged importers to bring in more products,” Meat Importers and Traders Association president emeritus Jesus Cham said in a Viber message over the weekend.

Pork remained the leading meat product purchased by traders but Cham said beef showed the highest increase of nearly 30 percent.

Pork accounted for 48.9 percent of the total with 317 million kg, climbing by 7.6 percent from a year prior. Importers primarily brought in offals and pork cuts.

Cham noted that pork cuts registered a higher increase compared to bellies. “At the same time, it appears that there is more demand for cheaper cuts, offal and by-products,” he said.

Chicken came second totaling 221.6 million kg, up by 4.1 percent. It cornered 34.2 percent of the six-month total, mainly consisting of mechanically deboned meat or mechanically separated chicken.

Beef rose by 29.2 percent to end at 84.92 billion kg, equivalent to an import share of 13.1 percent. Beef cuts took up more than half of the overall volume.

“The record high domestic retail prices of pork and chicken indicate a severe supply shortage. This has allowed beef to become more competitive,” he added.

Meat traders procured 23.1 million kg of buffalo along with turkey, lamb and duck during the reference period.

Among meat exporting countries, Brazil was still the leading source of imported meat in the archipelago after shipping 223.64 million kg of the commodity, mainly chicken and pork.

Brazilian exporters had expressed their readiness to deliver more pork and chicken, especially after gaining expanded access to the Philippine market in March.

The Philippines and Brazil had reached the system accreditation and prelisting establishment agreement, allowing the latter's exporters to supply meat as long as they are duly registered and authorized. Philippine authorities will no longer individually evaluate applications from Brazil.

The United States and Spain followed with 95.1 million kg and Spain with 81.3 million kg.

Cham said the issuance of Executive Order No. 62, which aims to ensure continued supply of essential food products at affordable prices by keeping tariff rates on various products low, provided certainty to importers.

However, he said the Department of Agriculture "still appears unwilling to recognize the supply shortage."

"The pork MAV (minimum access volume or the tariff quota) was only fully issued this week, delayed by over 6 months," he added.

Cham also said the DA would reclassify certain pork offal as meat for it to pay higher duty and landed costs. —*Jordeene B. Lagare INQ*

<https://business.inquirer.net/476710/ph-buys-more-pork-overseas-amid-swine-flu-el-nino>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Slowdown in rice imports seen by Sept

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 02:09 AM August 27, 2024



PLANTING SEASON A farmer uses a hand tractor to prepare a rice paddy for planting palay in Pulilan, Bulacan, on Aug. 8. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

The Philippines is seen to import less rice from September onwards, mirroring a trend among the world's rice-consuming countries to await India's lifting of a yearlong rice export ban.

"I expect things to slow down from September," said Subramanian Venkatram, cofounder of SSResource Media Pte. Ltd., which provides reports on the global rice market.

He particularly said the "-ber" months would likely be slower in terms of shipment of imported rice to the country.

The Philippine Rice Industry Stakeholders Movement (Prism) expects the same scenario to play out as some suppliers in Vietnam—the country's leading source of

imported rice—rescind their contracts to renegotiate their deals with buyers and fetch a higher price.

“Prices in Vietnam have increased. Many Vietnamese suppliers canceled the contract. The price difference is around \$60 to \$70 per ton. That’s the main factor. Once they canceled it, no more stocks [are] coming in,” Prism cofounder Orlando Manuntag said.

Manuntag said it is high time for the Philippine government to initiate talks with rice-exporting states to ensure that contracts would not be nullified and rice imports would be delivered on time.

“It’s also time to provide support for local production to help the farmers,” he added.

Venkatram said the slowdown in rice imports was likewise occurring in other countries worldwide.

“We also see the world markets slowing down mainly because there’s a lot of expectation that India is going to reopen. Everyone is playing it cautious,” he said on the sidelines of SS Rice News Network 2024 held in Taguig.

India, one of the main exporters of rice worldwide, banned in July 2023 the export of rice, including broken rice and non-basmati white rice, due to food security concerns. This disrupted the global markets, jacking up global rice prices as major importers like the Philippines scrambled to find alternative suppliers.

Through a bilateral arrangement, the Philippines was able to purchase about 20,000 metric tons (MT) of rice from India. The country has imported 2.57 million MT of rice so far this year through Aug. 8, based on the Bureau of Plant Industry’s tally. Most of the stocks were sourced from Vietnam, which delivered 1.95 million MT. Thailand followed suit with 360,444.74 MT.

Rice imports so far this year approximated 71.1 percent of the volume of rice sourced abroad in 2023.

The US Department of Agriculture had lowered its forecast on the country's overseas rice purchases by 100,000 metric tons to 4.6 million MT this year because of "slowing purchases" from Vietnam.

Signed by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in June, Executive Order No. 62 slashes duties on rice to 15 percent until 2028. The reduction in tariff aims to augment supply, manage prices and temper inflationary pressure of commodities. **INQ**

<https://business.inquirer.net/476715/slowdown-in-rice-imports-seen-by-sept>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

CA: Only Bt eggplant, Golden Rice covered by ruling banning GMOs

By: [Jane Bautista](#) - Reporter / [@janebautistaINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:20 AM August 27, 2024



LIMITED BAN The Court of Appeals has deleted Item 8 in its previous ruling on genetically modified organisms or GMOs. In its most recent decision dated Aug. 15, the court said the ban on the use, testing sale and importation of GMOs applies only to Golden Rice and Bt eggplant. —Photo from IRRI

MANILA, Philippines — The Court of Appeals has narrowed the scope of its earlier decision on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) as it clarified that the prohibition on their usage, testing, sale, or importation applied only to Golden Rice and Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) eggplant.

In a 33-page decision dated Aug. 15, the court's Former Fourth Division removed Item (8) from its April 17 decision, which barred "any application for contained use, field testing, direct use as food or feed, or processing, commercial propagation and importation" of GMOs until government agencies had established ways to monitor and improve risk assessments for these products.

“In this case, only the circumstances, facts and issues covering Golden Rice and Bt Eggplant were considered in rendering the assailed decision,” the appellate court said in the decision penned by Associate Justice Jennifer Joy Ong.

It noted that other applicants for the use, testing, sale, or import of GMOs were not included in the case, depriving these of a chance to be heard.

Item 8 only

“Lest we be accused of violating a fundamental right (to due process), the deletion of Item (8) of the dispositive portion of the assailed decision is in order,” the court said.

All other provisions of its April 17 ruling were upheld, including the issuance of a cease and desist order against the commercial propagation of GMO crops Golden Rice and Bt eggplant due to the lack of “full scientific certainty” about their impact.

The appellate court earlier ruled in favor of the petitioners led by Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-Unlad Agrikultura (Masipag) and Greenpeace Southeast Asia, as it revoked the biosafety permits issued by the government to the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) and Philippine Rice Research Institute (PRRI).

Its decision was based on the petition for writs of kalikasan and continuing mandamus with prayer for the issuance of a temporary environmental protection order originally filed by the groups before the Supreme Court on Oct. 17, 2022.

Named respondents in the petition aside from the PRRI and UPLB were the secretaries of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Department of Health; as well as the director of the DA’s Bureau of Plant Industry.

Partial reconsideration

The appellate court issued its Aug. 15 decision after the petitioners filed a motion for partial reconsideration on May 2 seeking to modify Item 8.

According to them, the Philippines imports GMOs such as yellow corn and soya meal, which are the most important ingredients in animal feeds.

In its comment, the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), representing the respondents from the government, said that it shared the petitioners' apprehension about the effects of item 8, citing "existing data showing that domestic food and feed industries heavily rely on the importation of GM soybean products."

The OSG emphasized that the appellate court's directive under the said provision "hampers the country's efforts to provide and discover new and valuable information through scientific research and negatively impacts the country's agricultural industry and biotechnology research."

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1976893/ca-only-bt-eggplant-golden-rice-covered-by-ruling-banning-gmos>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

‘100% pure New Zealand’ dairy firm busted for using Indian butter

Agence France-Presse / 02:22 PM August 26, 2024



Wellington, New Zealand — A Kiwi dairy company has been busted for falsely claiming its products were “100 percent pure New Zealand”, despite using butter imported from India.

Dairy firm Milkio Foods Limited was fined US\$261,452 on Monday after New Zealand’s Commerce Commission took it to court for making false claims about the origin of its butter products.

The Hamilton-based firm misled customers about where its ghee products came from, with “claims like ‘100% Pure New Zealand’ despite importing the core ingredient from India”, the Commerce Commission said in a statement.

New Zealand's agriculture-driven industry prides itself on high-quality dairy exports, with overseas customers hungry for milk and butter from its rich pastures.

“Milkio took advantage of this reputation to promote their own products” Commerce Commission spokesperson Vanessa Horne said.

The company also presented false and incomplete information to get approval to use the FernMark logo — a trusted symbol to identify New Zealand-made products.

Milkio pleaded guilty to 15 breaches of New Zealand's Fair Trading Act for making false representations and admitted using the FernMark logo and licence number without proper authorisation.

“This conviction should serve as a warning to others who may be looking to falsely claim the New Zealand brand,” Horne added.

<https://business.inquirer.net/476691/100-pure-new-zealand-dairy-firm-busted-for-using-indian-butter>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Rice industry wants more say in review of tariff EO

August 26, 2024 | 8:04 pm



REUTERS

THE GOVERNMENT needs to improve industry representation in the review of Executive Order (EO) No. 62, which cut the tariff on imported rice to 15%, an industry group said.

“In reviewing EO 62, we hope that farmers, seed growers, millers, wholesalers, retailers, and importers” can take part, Philippine Rice Industry Stakeholders Movement (PRISM) Founder and Lead Convenor Rowena

D. Sadicon told reporters on the sidelines of a rice forum last week.

EO 62’s new tariff setting is in force until 2028, subject to review every four months in the event of changes to global prices and supply.

“On our side, the stakeholders, we cannot really question (EO 62) because there is a reason for it. But it’s probably the execution and the timing,” Ms. Sadicon added.

Industry and farmer groups have questioned the validity of the EO, claiming lack of public consultation.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. had said that a fall to the P45 per kilo price level for rice may remain likely by mid-October if foreign exchange rates and world market rice prices remain stable.

PRISM Co-Founder Orlando Manutag said Vietnamese traders have begun canceling contracts of Philippine rice importers as prices rise in Vietnam.

The difference in the Philippine contract and the Vietnam market price is “around \$60 to \$70 per metric ton (MT),” Mr. Manutag added.

“Our importers in June didn’t buy rice because they were waiting for the lower tariffs. When the importers started to buy, Vietnam raised prices,” he said.

Vietnam supplies the majority of the Philippines’ rice imports, accounting for 75.88% of all shipments as of Aug. 8, according to the Bureau of Plant Industry. This was equivalent to 1.95 million MT, in the year to date.

“The government should intercede in this matter,” he added.

In January, the Philippines and Vietnam signed an agreement giving the Philippines a quota of between 1.5 and 2 million MT (MMT) of rice annually for five years.

Earlier, the US Department of Agriculture lowered its Philippine rice import forecast to 4.6 MMT this year due to weaker-than-expected purchases from Vietnam. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/08/26/616209/rice-industry-wants-more-say-in-review-of-tariff-eo/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Meat imports rise 9.6% in first half

August 26, 2024 | 8:03 pm



REUTERS

MEAT IMPORTS rose 9.64% by volume year on year in the first half, led by pork, chicken, and beef, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) reported.

The BAI said imports amounted to 647.75 million kilograms during the first half. The June total rose 9.5% to 123.07 million kilos.

Shipments of pork, which accounted for 48.9% of meat imports overall, rose 10.7% to 316.99 million kilos during the period.

Spain supplied around 80.74 million kilos of pork, followed by Brazil (71.96 million kilos), and Canada (46.75 million kilos).

Chicken imports made up 34.3% of the total. Shipments increased 4.1% year on year to 40.37 million kilos.

Brazil remained the top supplier of chicken with shipments of 121.14 million kilos, followed by the US (67.48 million kilos), and Australia (9.17 million kilos).

Beef imports increased 29.3% to 84.92 million kilos during the six months, accounting for 13.1% of the meat import total.

Beef from Brazil amounted to 30.52 million kilos, followed by Australia (24.2 million kilos), and Ireland (7.7 million kilos).

Imports of turkey increased to 722,529 kilos from 112,923 kilos a year prior.

On the other hand, imports of lamb, duck, and buffalo meat declined in the first half.

Imports of buffalo dropped 8.7% to 23.1 million kilos.

Shipments of duck and lamb fell during the period by 47.4% to 85,854 kilos and 22.5% to 327,380, respectively. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/08/26/616207/meat-imports-rise-9-6-in-first-half/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

More investment urged to boost agri production

August 26, 2024 | 8:01 pm



Farmers are seen in a rice field in Bustos, Bulacan, Oct. 17, 2023. — PHILIPPINE STAR/KJ ROSALES

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

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) needs to increase investment in research and development to make the Philippines self-sufficient in food.

“Invest in research and development as well as extension (RDE). This is often underinvested in, but we must do so as RDE is the means by which we improve productivity,” Geny F. Lapina, an agricultural economist at the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, said in an e-mail interview.

As domestic production cannot meet demand, the Philippines typically imports commodities like rice, meat, sugar, and dairy, among others.

“What needs to be improved is execution, monitoring, and strategic thinking. Much of what we do still leans more towards what is popular,” Mr. Lapina added.

He said that the effects of climate change on agricultural production warrants constant monitoring and evaluation of ongoing farm programs.

Droughts and dry spells, mainly due to El Niño, caused a drop in agricultural production during the first half of the year.

“In general, food will always be political. We need more leaders that can think strategically and rally the various competing interests in the food and agriculture sector,” he added.

He said that the Agriculture department remains subject to pressure from farmers and consumers.

“If they focus on consumers that translates to lower retail prices, then farmers complain. However, if they focus on producers and farmgate prices go up, then consumers complain,” Mr. Lapina added.

He said that too much of a burden is placed on the DA in terms of achieving food security.

He called for a “whole of government approach” in the various departments dealing with technology, infrastructure, trade policy, environment, and human health.

Mr. Lapina said food security has now become a much more complex challenge.

He added that nutrition should be part of the food security discussion, “given the rise of non-communicable diseases where the food we eat is one contributing factor.”

“There is also increasing recognition of the impact of food production on the environment,” he said.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/08/26/616205/more-investment-urged-to-boost-agri-production/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

How much is my *pechay*?

August 27, 2024 | 12:04 am



MAP Insights

By Chit U. Juan



PHILIPPINE STAR/MIGUEL DE GUZMAN

For those of us who are vegetable eaters, we may be conscious about the price of upland vegetables, like chop suey ingredients (carrots, *sayote*, Baguio *pechay* or *wombok* and beans), which generally come from Baguio if you are in Manila, and Bansalan if you are from Davao City. You should also consider the prices of upland salad ingredients like lettuce, tomatoes and onions.

For lowland vegetables or a *pinakbet* mix, we have squash, pole beans (*sitaw*), *okra*, *ampalaya* and *kangkong*. These may come from Laguna and other parts of Luzon. But did you know that there may be as much as 12 points to pass before the vegetable reaches your plate?

Because of these 12 touchpoints, 40% of the produce actually wilt or get damaged and, eventually, the second-to-the-last touchpoint may have a recovery of only 60-70% of the initial truckload. Thus, vegetables have already become very expensive upon reaching their destination. One reason is perishability, and another is the multiple stations they have to pass to get to the consumer.

You may think it is simply a supply chain issue. It probably is more complicated than that.

1. Farmers have no financial capacity to buy seeds and fertilizers so they borrow. They don't have credit history so they borrow from their buyers, like an advance contract.
2. Buyers have the farmers in the palm of their hands because they have extended credit to the producer.
3. Farmers plant the same crops because they don't know who their final buyer will be, so they join the bandwagon who have buyers in *bagsakan* or depots.
4. Once they get their money, they pay their loans to the buyers and then zero out and start again. That is a vicious cycle that many farmers experience.

I recently met a group that probably has a solution to this recurring problem. They combined technology and farming knowledge to introduce apps and the use of social media, like Facebook, to talk to farmers and buy their produce. To date, they have helped over 38,000 farmers who can now benefit from direct trade, or at least a four-step process better than the usual 12-step way.

They establish hubs and become the alternative *bagsakan* or depot and farmers bring their goods to these alternative hubs, instead of the usual public depot. They get better prices and they also are seen by the operators in the flesh, no longer invisible to the wholesale buyer or aggregator. The aggregators call themselves AgroDigital PH and they revolutionized buying of perishable produce, like your *pechay* or lettuce. They have B2B customers, like a supermarket chain that also has locations around Luzon, for example.

Founders Henry James Sison and Analissa Jardin joined us at a Slow Food event at a culinary school to explain their business concept, which is truly admirable.

Another innovator is Lakal, Inc. — started by Reuben Ravago and Rhoderick “Heaven” Torres — which is also using a model that may revolutionize buying and selling of coffee and other commodities. Lakal will establish hubs, but the difference is that they will store commodities, like coffee and corn, and be the intermediary between buyer and seller. With commodities that can be stored longer (unlike vegetables that are highly perishable), you can wait a few weeks or months for better prices before making a transaction.

Lakal has rules on buying and selling and may be the solution to price fluctuations that subject the farmers to shock and disappointment. Buyer and seller must agree on the price (called farmgate) before the transaction succeeds with Ravago as the intermediary. Again, this will use technology to determine available stocks and market prices, and brokering a sale will be transparent. This is patterned after the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and will soon be launched to help commodity farmers and producers.

Agro Digital PH and Lakal are just two examples of innovative tools, apps and ideas that could help our farmers navigate the supply chain challenges because our country is archipelagic, and cold storage is hard to come by for the common farmer.

I also heard of horror stories of hoarders establishing cold storage facilities, buying all the onions at super low prices, keeping them and waiting for a shortage so they can unleash their inventory at super-high prices. There ought to be a law against these economic saboteurs. Such has been the story of the Philippines for many years now. People with money just cannot moderate or manage their greed, and make fast money because they have the capital to begin with, much to the dismay of the disgruntled food producer.

With technology and people like Ravago and Sison, we hope that things will change albeit slowly but surely. Technology, social consciousness and good values may just save the day.

We salute these technopreneurs, who may be the Department of Agriculture's allies in making sure our farmers are paid well, can live decently and will be sustainable as SMEs that give us our food.

The next time you buy vegetables, think of where they came from. We need to support the new generation of entrepreneurs who will secure our food supply through technology, so we can have more farmer-entrepreneurs empowered by Sison using technology. And we may have a real commodity exchange using the tools created by Ravago's group.

These are welcome developments in the area of food security, and we hope that consumers support these innovations, so we do not lose our farmer population and just turn to imports.

Technology and Agriculture — their marriage is key to our food security.

Chit U. Juan is co-vice-chair of the Management Association of the Philippines' Environment Committee. She is also the president of the Philippine Coffee Board, Inc. and Slow Food Manila (www.slowfood.com).

<https://www.bworldonline.com/opinion/2024/08/27/616107/how-much-is-my-pechay/>

REMATE:

1 toneladang bocha nakumpiska sa Maynila

August 26, 2024 17:07

MANILA, Philippines – NAKUMPISKA ng mga tauhan ng Manila Veterinary Inspection Board (VIB) ang nasa isang tonelada ng bocha o “hot meat” sa isinagawang operasyon sa isang bahay sa Tondo, Maynila, nitong nakaraang Sabado ng hapon.

Batay sa ulat ni Dr. Nick Santos, Director ng VIB, naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Manila Police District (MPD) ang suspek na si Donelo Gonzales sa kanyang tinutuluyang bahay sa Antipolo Ext. sa Tondo dakong alas-4:02 ng hapon na itinuturong nagde-deliver ng mga karne ng baboy na hindi na angkop na kainin ng tao.

Ayon kay Santos, batay sa direktiba ni Manila Mayor Honey Lacuna-Pangan na bantayan ang mga palengke at lugar na pinagdadalhan ng mga bochang karne upang matiyak na malinis at may tatak ng National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) ang mga pumapasok na karne sa Maynila, una nilang nasabat sa Barangay 148 ang ide-deliber na sanang isang tonelada ng bocha sa mga pampublikong pamilihan.

Sa inisyal na imbestigasyon, inginuso ng driver ng van si Gonzales na aniya ay nag-uutos lang sa kanila ng pagde-deliber ng mga karne kapalit ng kaukulang bayad.

Nang puntahan nina Dr. Santos, kasama ang mga pulis sa kanyang bahay, natuklasan na nadakip na rin kamakailan ang suspek dahil sa pagde-deliver din ng mga karneng bocha.

Sinabi ni Dr. Santos na ipinasiya nilang ibaon sa compound ng VIB ang mga nakumpiskang karne dahil hindi na ito ligtas kainin maging ng mga hayop.

Mga kasong paglabag sa R.A 10536 o Meat Inspection Code at R.A. 10611 o Food Safety Act ang inihaing kaso ng mga tauhan ng VIB sa Manila City Prosecutor’s Office laban sa naarestong suspek. *JAY Reyes*

<https://remate.ph/1-toneladang-bocha-nakumpiska-sa-maynila/>

Cagayan Valley farmers warned vs fake fertilizers

By Vince Jacob Visaya

August 27, 2024

TUGUEGARAO CITY — The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) in Cagayan Valley has received numerous complaints from farmers about fake, unregistered and mislabeled pesticides and fertilizers.

FPA regional manager Leonardo Bangad, in a statement, said the FPA is moving to pursue the people behind the counterfeit agriculture products as well as traders selling products with expired certificates of product registration.

"It is a great help in catching the accused in complaints received from farmers such as selling them with strange colors, different packaging, and ineffective fertilizers and pesticides, reason for the FDA and law enforcement agencies to conduct surveillance and entrapment operations," Bangad said.

Bangad said the agency regularly monitors stores selling agricultural products in Cagayan Valley to ensure that only legitimate fertilizers and pesticides are sold in the region.

The FPA also visits the warehouses of the manufacturers to ensure the quality of their products.

Bangad also reminded the farmers to avoid buying from barangay agents, especially if they are not licensed distributors.

"And if the products are sold at a cheap price and if the label on their packaging is written in foreign characters, report them to the FPA or the municipal agriculturist," he said.

Anyone caught selling counterfeit pesticides and fertilizers may be charged for violation of the provisions of PD 1144 which is punishable by imprisonment and a fine of P5,000 to P50,000 depending on the severity of the violation.

This is in addition to the charges that may be filed for violating the Consumer Act of the Philippines.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/08/27/regions/cagayan-valley-farmers-warned-vs-fake-fertilizers/1966909>

Meat imports up nearly 10% in H1

By Janine Alexis Miguel

August 27, 2024

THE Philippines imported more meat from January to June, totaling 647.74 million kilograms (kg), up by 9.64 percent from 590.76 million kg in the same period in 2023, the Department of Agriculture (DA) reported.

Data from the DA's Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) showed pork accounted for 48.9 percent of shipments at 316.99 million kg. This was higher by 10.7 percent from the previous 286.27 million kg.

Chicken was second at 34.2 percent worth 221.59 million kg, up by 4.12 percent from 212.8 million kg. Beef came in third with 29.29 percent at 84.9 million kg, up from the previous year's 65.67 million kg.

What went down were shipments of buffalo (23.09 million kg or 8.72-percent lower than the previous 25.3 million kg), lamb (327,379 kg or 22.4-decrease from 422,137 kg), and duck meat (85,855 kg or a 47.4-percent drop from 163,342 kg).

Brazil was the top meat supplier, shipping in 223.64 million kg or 34.5 percent of the country's total imported meat.

The United States and Spain followed, with about 95.06 million kg and 81.3 million kg of meat, respectively.

Others on the list were Canada (56.05 million kg), Australia (38.86 million kg), and the Netherlands (32.96 million kg).

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/08/27/business/top-business/meat-imports-up-nearly-10-in-h1/1966947>

Meat imports rise 10%

By **Jed Macapagal**

August 27, 2024

The country imported 9.6 percent more meat in the first half of the year than in the same period last year, data from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) showed.

BAI said meat imports stood at 647.7 million kilograms (kg) in the first half from 590.8 million kg last year, with pork making up 317 million kg or 48.9 percent of total.

Pork imports rose 10.7 percent from last year's 286.3 million kg.

Chicken imports stood at 221.6 million kg or 34.2 percent of all imported meat and higher by 4.1 percent from 212.8 million kg.

Beef imports rose 29.3 percent to 84.9 million kg from 65.7 million kg or 13.1 percent of all meat imports.

Buffalo imports fell 8.7 percent to 23.1 million kg from 25.3 million kg while turkey imports jumped 539.8 percent to 722,529 kg from 112,923 kg.

Lamb imports also declined 22.4 percent to 327,379 kg from the previous year's 422,137 kg while imported duck meat went down by 47.4 percent to 85,855 kg from 163,342 kg.

The United States Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Manila earlier said the Philippines is likely to import more beef, carabeef and pork products by 2025 as local production will continue to outweigh demand.

https://malaya.com.ph/news_business/meat-imports-rise-10/

PHL meat imports up 9.6% in 1st semester

Ada Pelonia
August 27, 2024

THE country's meat imports grew by nearly 10 percent in the first semester, driven by higher chicken and pork purchases abroad.

Data from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) showed that meat imports increased by 9.64 percent to 647,745 metric tons (MT) from January to June this year, compared to the 590,766 MT recorded in the same period in 2023. Chicken imports rose 4.13 percent to 221,598 MT from 212,811 MT. Mechanically deboned meat (MDM) accounted for the bulk of chicken imports at 124,837 MT.

Based on BAI data, pork imports grew by 10.73 percent to 316,995 MT from the 286,275 MT recorded in the same period last year. Pork cuts accounted for most of the shipments, followed by offals at 113,851 MT and 112,597 MT, respectively.

Beef imports jumped by 29.3 percent to 84,918 MT from 65,676 MT. Beef cuts held the bulk of the imports at 55,575 MT.

“The reduction in supply caused by the continuing effects of ASF [African swine fever] coupled with El Niño most likely encouraged importers to bring in more products,” Meat Importers and Traders Association (Mita) President Emeritus Jesus Cham said via Viber.

According to Cham, the “record high” domestic retail prices of pork and chicken indicate a severe supply shortage, which “allowed beef to become more competitive.”

The prevailing price of chicken in Metro Manila markets was P220 per kilo while pork belly was P380 per kilo as of August 20, based on the price monitoring report of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Cham said that while Executive Order (EO) 62 introduced a measure of certainty over the tariff, the DA “still appears unwilling to recognize the supply shortage.”

“The pork MAV was only fully issued this week, delayed by over 6 months,” he said.

“Also, DA would reclassify certain pork offal as meat in order for it to pay higher duty and incur higher landed cost,” Cham added.

Under EO 62, pork imports have an in-quota tariff of 15 percent and an out-quota tariff of 25 percent, while poultry MDM has a 5-percent tariff rate.

Meanwhile, Brazil was the top supplier of beef and chicken imports at 30,519 MT and 121,135 MT, respectively.

In terms of pork imports, BAI data showed that Spain was the country’s biggest supplier at 80,737 MT.

The United States Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agricultural Service in Manila (USDA-FAS Manila) recently said in its latest report that the country’s meat imports are expected to increase next year on the back of population growth and a positive economic outlook.

“FAS Manila forecasts 2025 beef imports to increase to 226,000 metric tons [MT] carcass weight equivalent [CWE],” the report read. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/22/phl-meat-imports-seen-to-grow-in-2025/>)

“Continued greater-than-six-percent economic growth and forecasted population increases support strong consumer purchasing power which will push beef imports higher in 2025,” it added.

The report also projected pork imports next year to reach 510,000 MT CWE, up over 6 percent from last year.

“Continued animal disease challenges combined with strong economic growth and forecast population increases will push imports upward.”

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/27/phl-meat-imports-up-9-6-in-1st-semester/>

MPIC food unit confident of hitting financial goals—exec

VG Cabuag
August 27, 2024

Metro Pacific Agriventures Inc. (MPAV), a unit of conglomerate Metro Pacific Investment Corp. (MPIC), said is ramping up business activity as it is targeting to become a P20-billion company in the medium term.

Juan Victor Hernandez, MPAV president, said he is confident that the company will achieve its target. The food production arm of Metro Pacific is also optimistic of posting at least P1 billion in revenues in the next two years.

Hernandez said the company plans to diversify into protein and dairy. MPAV is looking at egg production and carabao milk.

“Protein could either be meat, eggs or aquaculture. All of those are very interesting.”

He said the potential venture complements the company’s core strategy of offering products seen in the Filipino plate.

Hernandez also said its carabao milk venture will boost local farmers income and give MPAV other sources of materials for processing cheese.

He said the agri venture of MPIC is now “doing well” from a revenue standpoint as “all metrics are up.”

“We’re now working on our EBITDA [earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization] and core income. If we look at the different components, we’re happy to announce on the ice cream side, we’re already positive EBITDA and making net income on ice cream,” Hernandez said.

“We have to work on the dairy side because that’s also lower margin from a business perspective. We’re able to grow the volumes there. We’re confident we’ll be able to have positive EBITDA by next year as a total dairy business.”

In July, Metro Pacific Agro Ventures announced its entry into agreements to acquire 100 percent of Universal Harvester Dairy Farms Inc.

UHDFI, located in Maramag, Bukidnon, operates under the Bukidnon Milk Co. brand, producing fresh milk, flavored milk, yogurt and cheese products, with presence primarily focused on key cities in Visayas and Mindanao.

MPAV's acquisition, which values UHDFI at over P700 million, comes after its previous investment in The Laguna Creamery Inc., known for popular brands Carmen's Best ice cream and Holly's Milk.

Since partnering with MPAV, the company has doubled its sales in just two years. By combining the resources of TLCI and UHDFI, MPAV said it aims to establish a national dairy champion with farms across the country, a nationwide reach, and a comprehensive range of products.

MPIC reported that its consolidated core net income in the first half jumped 27 percent to a record high of P12.5 billion from last year's P9.9 billion.

Improved financial and operating results from MPIC's holdings delivered a 20-percent increase in contribution from operations to P14.8 billion, it said.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/27/mpic-food-unit-confident-of-hitting-financial-goals-exec/>

Food Sufficiency...Caryana Monastery Farm

ANG MAGSASAKANG REPORTER - Mer Layson

August 27, 2024 | 12:00am

Ngayong araw na ito ay ibabahagi ko sa inyo ang isang Monesteryo na kung saan ay mismong mga pari, brothers at sisters ang nagtatanim ng kanilang sariling pagkain at halos hindi na bumibili sa palengke.

Ang aking tinutukoy ay ang Caryana Monastery na makikita sa San Isidro, Magalang Pampanga.

Si Bro. MJ Miranda na siyang Farming In-charge ng Monesteryo ang siyang nagpaunlak sa amin ng panayam.

Ayon kay Bro. MJ, ang monesteryo ay may sukat na 60 ektarya na may maganda simbahan at luntian ang kapaligiran.

Sa kabuuan na 60-ektarya ay 13 dito ay taniman ng palay, isang ektarya ang taniman ng gulay na may dalawang malaking green house na kalahating ektarya ang sukat.

May tatlong ektaryang taniman ng prutas, dalawang ektaryang palaisdaan at maraming alagang itik, manok, ostrich, tupa, kambing, maliit na kabayo, peacock at marami pang iba.

Ani Bro. MJ, food sufficiency ang layunin nila kaya all year round ay nagtatanim sila.

Aniya nasa 270 silang stay-in na brothers, sisters at mga pari sa loob ng monesteryo at halos lahat ng kanilang kinakain ay kanilang tanim at alaga.

“Ang gawain namin dito sa monesteryo ay magdasal, magtanim, mag-alaga ng hayop at isda na siya ring aming pagkain,” ani Bro.MJ.

Sinabi pa ni Bro. MJ, lahat ng sobra para sa kanila ay ipinamimigay sa mga kalapit na lugar at barangay.

Ayon pa kay Bro. MJ, nakaplano ang kanilang mga itinatanim para sa buong taon ay mayroon silang nakakain.

May conventional farming o nakatanim sa lupa at hydroponics method of farming sa loob ng monesteryo.

Pahayag pa ni Bro. MJ, 4-years old pa lamang siya ay napasok na siya sa monesteryo at dito niya nadarama ang tunay na kapayapaan sa piling ng “Paraiso ng Panginoon.”

Maging si Ka Bernie Dizon mula nang pumasok sa monesteryo hanggang ngayon na may karamdaman siya at ayaw ng lumabas ng monesteryo.

Ang Magsasakang Reporter ay dalawang beses nang nakapasok sa Caryana Monestery. Ang una ay noong kalakasan pa ni Ka Bernie nang siya ma-interview ko sa kanyang pagtanim ng iba't ibang fruit berries sa loob ng monesteryo.

Iniimbitahan ni MJ ang lahat, lalo na ang brothers, sisters, pastor, pari, kabataan, magulang at senior citizens na magtanim tulad ng kanilang ginagawang pagtanim.

Sa Linggo, September 1, 2024 ay mapapanood ninyo ang interview kay Bro. MJ Miranda at farm tour sa loob ng Farm sa Carnaya Monestery sa Buhay TV Show ng Magsasakang Reporter.

Samantala, para sa iba pang tips at sikreto sa pagtanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman sa pamamagitan ng organikong pamamaraan ay maaari po kayong manood at makinig ng aking TV program na Masaganang Buhay tuwing Linggo, alas-7:00 hanggang alas-8:00 ng umaga sa OnePH Cignal TV, Channel 1 ng TV-5. Mapapanood din sa RPTV, Facebook at Youtube.

Maaari rin kayong manood at mag-subscribe at mag-follow sa aking Youtube Channel na ANG MAGSASAKANG REPORTER at Facebook profile na Mer Layson at Facebook page na Ang Magsasakang Reporter, TV host Vlogger, Tiktok na Magsasakang Reporter para sa iba pang kaalaman at impormasyon sa pagtanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman sa pamamagitan ng organikong pamamaraan.

Tuwing araw ng Martes ay regular ninyong mababasa ang aking kolum dito sa Pilipino Star Ngayon (PSN) ng Star Media Group.

Nitong nakalipas na July 28, 2024 ay ginawaran ang Magsasakang Reporter bilang Asia's Versatile and Promising Columnist on Agriculture of the year ng 9th Asia Pacific Luminares Award sa Heritage Hotel, Pasay City.

Sa mga tanong at komento ay maaari ninyo akong i-text, huwag po tawag, sa 09178675197. STAY SAFE, SALAMAT PO, HAPPY FARMING, GOD BLESS US ALL.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/opinyon/2024/08/27/2380755/food-sufficiencycaryana-monestery-farm>