

CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY AUGUST 09, 2024

A. MANILA BULLETIN:

Marcos reorganizes Zero Hunger task force anew

Senate probe on MT Terranova oil spill set on Aug. 13

Batangas town under state of calamity due to ASF

Support farmers, ensure food security

New agricultural school to rise in Borongan City

B. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Agriculture sector shrinks by 2.3% in Q2

Marcos Jr. turns over P782 million equipment to NIA

DA: ASF-affected barangays now 150

C. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

He helped farmers save crops: Davide named nat'l scientist

D. BUSINESS WORLD:

Farmers cite delays in RCEF seed distribution

E. REMATE:

Lobo, Batangas nagdeklara ng state of calamity sa ASF

Mas mababang presyo ng bigas sa darating na mga buwan, posible – Recto

Agri, infra damage sa hagupit ng habagat, bagyo higit P6.3B na

F. MANILA STANDARD:

Cabbage harvest time

Dried fish

G. THE MANILA TIMES:

Why we need middle-class farmers

H. MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT:

Farm output contracts 3.3%

Farmers need more than seeds

I. BUSINESS MIRROR:

Grain expectations

J. PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:

P29/K bigas sinimulan nang ibenta sa Kadiwa stores

Kaso ng ASF sa La Union, tumataas

Marcos reorganizes Zero Hunger task force anew

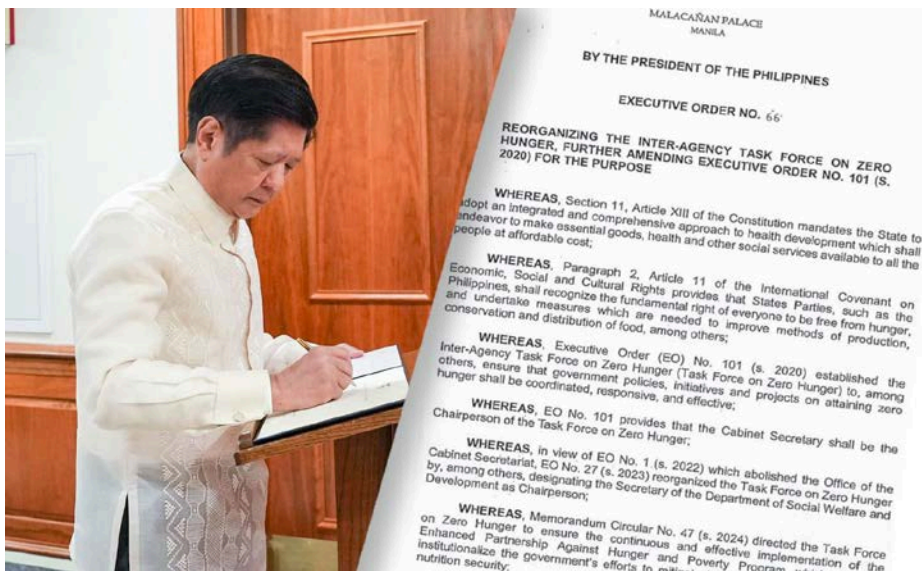
BY ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

Aug 9, 2024 07:15 AM

AT A GLANCE

TFZH will continue to be co-chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Executive Director of the National Nutrition Council.

President Marcos has once again reorganized the government's Task Force on Zero Hunger (TFZH) to include more members, promoting his administration's whole-of-government approach to address the issue.



File photos

Based on Executive Order (EO) no. 66 signed by Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin on Aug. 6, the TFZH will continue to be co-chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Executive Director of the National Nutrition Council.

The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) will still serve as the vice-chairperson.

Meanwhile, the Task Force has five new members:

- Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)
- Secretary, Department of Health (DOH)

- Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
- Secretary, Presidential Communications Office (PCO)
- Director-General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)

The other members of the TFHZ are:

- Secretary, Department of Budget and Management
- Secretary, Department of Education
- Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resource
- Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment
- Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry
- Secretary, Department of Science and Technology
- Secretary, National Economic and Development Authority
- Chairperson, Commission on Higher Education

This was the second time that President Marcos reorganized the TFHZ. The first time was via EO 27 in May 2023 to appoint the DSWD Secretary as the chair following the issuance of Marcos' EO1 which abolished the Office of the Cabinet Secretary. The Cabinet Secretary used to be the head of the Task Force.

The TFHZ was initially created in 2020 to eradicate hunger in the Philippines in 10 years by ensuring that government policies, initiatives, and projects on attaining zero hunger shall be coordinated, responsive, and effective.

The TFHZ rationalizes existing domestic laws, decrees, policies, and issuances pertinent to alleviating hunger and poverty, consistent with international laws and treaty obligations, and identifies and ensures the institutional responsibilities of concerned government agencies.

It also coordinates with concerned government agencies and local government units, in consultation with civil society organizations, to conduct objective impact assessments on relevant action programs, among other tasks.

The Task Force is likewise tasked to ensure the continuous and effective implementation of the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty Program, which aims to institutionalize the government's efforts to mitigate hunger and promote food and nutrition security.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/9/marcos-reorganizes-zero-hunger-task-force-anew>

Senate probe on MT Terranova oil spill set on Aug. 13

BY DHEL NAZARIO

Aug 8, 2024 03:33 PM

AT A GLANCE

Senate Majority Leader Francis Tolentino has announced that the Senate investigation on the oil spill caused by the MT Terranova will be conducted on Aug. 13.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Tolentino has announced that the Senate investigation on the oil spill caused by the MT Terranova will be conducted on August 13.



(Photo from the Office of Senate Majority Leader Francis Tolentino)

Tolentino filed last week Senate Resolution No. (SRN) 1084, which directs the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change to probe the cause of the oil spill that occurred on July 27.

Further, Tolentino's resolution will seek updates on how the sea disaster has severely affected the livelihoods of 46,000 fisherfolk in Bataan, Cavite, Metro Manila, and nearby areas, as well as marine biodiversity and food security.

"We need to set up stricter mechanisms to prevent such incidents, and to improve our capability to immediately respond to contain, clean up, and mitigate the impact of this toxic substance on the fishing sector and the environment," stressed the senator, citing similar occurrences in Pola, Oriental Mindoro in 2023, and the island-province of Guimaras in 2006.

Currently, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is being assisted by the United States Coast Guard and the Washington-based National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

(NOAA) to help contain the oil spill, according to Tolentino, who also chairs the Senate Special Committee on Philippine Maritime and Admiralty Zones.

In his radio program, 'Usapang Tol,' Tolentino was informed by Department of Agriculture (DA) Assistant Secretary Arnel De Mesa that the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has started to extend fuel subsidies to affected fisherfolk.

In response, Tolentino asked the DA to work with other agencies to assist another affected sector – namely, fish vendors who are also reeling from lower catch resulting from the oil spill and the subsequent fishing bans.

“We must not forget the fish vendors. The government must also reach out to them, because we have interviewed sellers in public markets who said that many stalls selling fish have now been closed,” Tolentino said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/8/senate-probe-on-mt-terranova-oil-spill-set-on-aug-13>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Batangas town under state of calamity due to ASF

BY DANNY ESTACIO

Aug 8, 2024 02:04 PM

LOBO, Batangas – This town has been placed under a state of calamity due to the threat of African Swine Fever (ASF).



The Sangguniang Bayan or municipal council approved a resolution on Wednesday, August 7, declaring the measure that was revealed in a meeting with over 500 hog raisers here.

Seventeen out of 26 barangays in this town have reported cases of ASF in hog farms.

About 8,000 pigs have been slaughtered and buried to prevent the further spread of ASF.

Hog raisers have sought the help of the government due to losses amounting to P103 million.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said that two other towns in Batangas are also affected by ASF.

The Municipal Agriculture Office here announced that checkpoints will be conducted by the police, local government unit, and military to prevent infected

pigs from being transported outside this town.

Mass testing of pigs has been scheduled. All pigs that test negative will be transported outside of Batangas to save them.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/8/batangas-town-under-state-of-calamity-due-to-asf>

Support farmers, ensure food security

BY MANILA BULLETIN

Aug 9, 2024 00:01 AM



Farmers are the backbone of our food system, playing a pivotal role in ensuring food security.

This is why every 6th of August is marked worldwide as Farmworkers' Appreciation Day. Sad to state, however, the day is observed without much fanfare.

In the Philippines, where agriculture is a significant part of the economy, the contributions of farmers cannot be overstated. Farmworkers are at the heart of food production. They cultivate the crops and raise the livestock.

Rain or shine, they toil in the farms from dawn to dusk to help ensure we have sufficient food on the table. Their efforts ensure that markets are stocked with fresh produce, grains, and other essential food items. They provide the essential produce that feeds millions of Filipinos daily. Without their hard work, food

scarcity would be a much more pressing issue.

However, despite their critical role, many farmers face numerous challenges that hinder their productivity and sustainability.

For all their contributions to food security, it is incumbent upon the government to extend full support to our farmworkers. Supporting the Filipino farmers requires a multifaceted approach that addresses their needs holistically.

To bolster the agricultural sector, both the government and the private sector must take proactive steps to help farmers.

Extending financial assistance and subsidies is one. Providing financial aid and subsidies can help farmers invest in better seeds, fertilizers, and equipment. This support can increase their productivity and reduce the financial burden they often face.

Another assistance may be in the form of infrastructure development. Improving rural infrastructure, such as roads, irrigation systems, and storage facilities, can significantly enhance farmers' ability to transport and store their produce, reducing post-harvest losses.

Providing farmers access to markets is also crucial. Creating more opportunities for farmers to sell their products directly to consumers or through cooperatives can ensure they receive fair prices for their produce. This can be facilitated by establishing farmers' markets and supporting farm-to-table initiatives.

Farmers likewise need training and education support. Providing training on modern farming techniques, sustainable practices, and financial management can empower farmers to improve their yields and manage their resources more effectively.

Investing in agricultural research is another way for the government to assist farmers as this could lead to the development of new crop varieties that are more resilient to pests and climate change, ensuring stable food production.

With the crucial role of farmers in the country's food security, President Marcos' assurance that farmers will not be left behind in the government's plans to modernize the agricultural sector is a welcome development.

"We will never forsake you. As we strive to modernize the agriculture sector, we have not forgotten you and we will not leave any of our Filipino farmers behind," Marcos assured farmers on Aug. 7, a day after the global observance of Farmworkers' Appreciation Day.

Incidentally, the observance of Farmworkers' Appreciation Day was inspired by migrant Filipino farmers in California, United States, who stood up to fight for workers' rights in the mid-1960s.

Our farmers need all the support to continue their vital work. Strengthening the agricultural sector is not just about improving food security; it's about empowering the farmworkers — the very people who feed us.

Together, we can build a more resilient and sustainable food system for all.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/9/support-farmers-ensure-food-security>

New agricultural school to rise in Borongan City

BY MARIE TONETTE MARTICIO

Aug 8, 2024 06:27 PM

TACLOBAN CITY – To boost the agricultural sector and promote youth involvement in farming, the Department of Education (DepEd)-Borongan, Eastern Samar State University (ESSU), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and the Borongan city government will establish a new agricultural school in Borongan.



During a recent local school board meeting, City Division Superintendent Edgar Tenesas unveiled the framework for the school.

The school will offer a specialized program for senior high school students, focusing solely on agricultural tracks.

The initiative aligns with Mayor Jose Dayan Agda's Dukwag Agrikultura program, providing interest-free and collateral-free loans to Borongan residents engaged in agriculture.

Agda believes the school can serve as a model for uplifting agricultural needs in the town and provinces of the Philippines through collaboration between the government and the private sector for the program's success.

Graduates of the agricultural school will have automatic admission to ESSU's agricultural courses.

ESSU will contribute to the curriculum design to ensure alignment with their programs and seamless transition from high school to college.

TESDA Provincial Director Antonio Waniwan will align programs in the proposed school to prepare graduates for TESDA certifications, explore student allowance opportunities, and provide multiple options post-completion.

A local ordinance will fund one scholar per barangay, nominated by respective officials, ensuring enrolment and community involvement.

City Information Officer Rupert Ambil suggested granting college credits from ESSU to students for a smooth high school to college transition in pursuing agricultural ventures.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/8/new-agricultural-school-to-rise-in-borongan-city>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Agriculture sector shrinks by 2.3% in Q2

Jean Mangaluz - Philstar.com

August 8, 2024 | 6:56pm



In a statement, the NFA said it bought 2.41 million of 50-kilogram bags or about 120,500 MT from April 17 to May 15 as a result of its new procurement price range of P23 to P30 per kilogram for dry and clean palay.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The country's agriculture, forestry and fishing sector shrank by 2.3% in the second quarter, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) on Thursday.

This is the lowest that the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector has fallen in the past four years.

The contraction coincides with a more than 900,000 decline in laborers in the agricultural and forestry sector, which was attributed to the heatwaves caused by the El Nino phenomenon.

According to data from the PSA, the decline was largely driven by the decline in

palay (rice), which also fell by 9.5%. Corn also fell by 19.2%.

The PSA also found the following agricultural products on the decline: sugarcane and muscovado, banana, coconut, cassava, mango, rubber, coffee and tobacco.

However, the rest of the subsectors under agriculture, forestry and fishing expanded. These include fishing and aquaculture, animal production, forestry and logging and cacao.

Following this decline in agriculture output, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said that the government needs to further invest in the agriculture sector.

The Philippines' official development assistance in 2023 reached \$37.29 billion, a majority of which went to infrastructure. Agriculture got a mere \$4.16 million of the ODA cut last year.

"Agriculture is the most vulnerable sector in the economy when it comes to climate change, and we have to invest in ensuring that the sector is protected from the adverse impacts of climate change," Balisacan said in a press briefing.

The NEDA Secretary admitted that there is a growing gap between what the Philippines could produce and the growing population.

"We can reduce that gap by increasing productivity in agriculture," Balisacan said.

Balisacan said that there are ongoing discussions with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for the agriculture sector.

Asked how Executive Order 62 could impact farmers, Balisacan said that it was necessary. The said EO had slashed import tariffs on agricultural products, including rice.

"The rice sector could have contracted and therefore the employment reduced, notwithstanding the actions on the trade front and the trade policy. Now with respect of the intention of EO 62, please recall that it was partly in response to the evolving challenges and in the case of agriculture, it's the contribution of food to the elevated inflation," Balisacan said.

Rice is consistently one of the main drivers of inflation in the Philippines.

Balisacan, however, said that the EO ensures that farmers are still protected by periodically reviewing the sector every four months, which includes the reversal of the tariff. He reiterated that it was to sustain the growth of the economy, and to keep up with the rapid growth of the Philippines' regional neighbors.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/08/08/2376407/agriculture-sector-shrinks-23-q2>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Marcos Jr. turns over P782 million equipment to NIA

Ric Sapnu - The Philippine Star

August 9, 2024 | 12:00am



Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

STAR / File

MEXICO, Pampanga, Philippines — President Marcos has turned over P782 million worth of heavy equipment to regional offices of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA).

Marcos and Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel led the distribution in Barangay Panipuan on Wednesday.

The newly procured 148 heavy equipment include excavators, trailer trucks and dumpers.

The acquisition is part of the NIA's three-year refueling program, which aims to achieve its goal of fast-tracking irrigation development.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/08/09/2376446/marcos-jr-turns-over-p782-million-equipment-nia>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA: ASF-affected barangays now 150

Bella Cariaso - The Philippine Star

August 9, 2024 | 12:00am



Agriculture Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa assured the public that the DA is finding ways to control the ASF outbreak in Batangas amid the expected increase in pork demand during the holidays.

STAR / File

Batangas town suffers P100 million losses

MANILA, Philippines — Up to 150 barangays nationwide are affected by the African swine fever or ASF as fresh cases were recorded in Batangas and La Union, an official of the Department of Agriculture (DA) announced yesterday.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa assured the public that the DA is finding ways to control the ASF outbreak in Batangas amid the expected increase in pork demand during the holidays.

“The ASF outbreak is not only in Batangas. We have at least 150 barangays (infected with ASF), based on the bulletin of the Bureau of Animal Industry,” De Mesa said.

The provincial veterinary office of Batangas said among the areas reeling from the ASF outbreaks are Lobo, Calatagan, Lian, Talisay, Rosario and Lipa.

“The ASF remains a problem. In Batangas alone, there was an abrupt resurgence, especially in areas where the virus has been controlled,” De Mesa said.

State of calamity

Lobo Mayor Jurly Manalo said the losses incurred by the municipality due to ASF has reached P100 million.

Of the 26 barangays in the municipality, only six remain ASF-free, according to Manalo.

“As of yesterday, more than 10,000 hogs have been culled,” he said.

The municipal government of Lobo has declared a state of calamity to help the affected backyard farmers.

“We have yet to receive assistance (from the national government). That’s why we declared a state of calamity, so that we can use our funds,” Manalo said.

The DA blamed the recent flooding caused by Typhoon Carina and the monsoon rains for the ASF outbreak.

According to De Mesa, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has ordered the immediate procurement of ASF vaccines to address the outbreak in Batangas.

Tiu Laurel approved the emergency procurement of the vaccine after the Food and Drug Administration allowed its use.

Batangas will be the first to be covered by the controlled ASF vaccination, being one of the major producers of pork, De Mesa said.

He said under the emergency procurement, the 10,000 doses of ASF vaccine would not undergo the bidding process.

“It will take some time if there will be competitive bidding. (The procurement) will be negotiated,” De Mesa said, adding that the ASF vaccines are expected to arrive in September.

In La Union, the DA regional office recorded 48 new ASF cases in Barangay Namtutan, San Fernando City.

Mayor Herminigildo Gualberto reported that of the 48 hogs infected with ASF, nine died and 39 were culled after the DA’s laboratory testing.

The towns of Balaoan and Luna have also recorded ASF cases. Seven barangays were affected in Balaoan and two in Luna. – **Jun Elias**

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/08/09/2376457/da-asf-affected-barangays-now-150>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

He helped farmers save crops: Davide named nat'l scientist

By: Julie M. Aurelio - Reporter / @JMAurelioINQ

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:38 AM August 09, 2024



Romulo Davide is one of the country's top scientist hailed as the “Father of Plant Nematology” for his many years of teaching and groundbreaking research on nematode pests that infest, debilitate and destroy agricultural crops. INQUIRER PHOTO / GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

Romulo Davide, an agricultural scientist hailed as the “father of plant nematology” for his pioneering research on nematode pests or roundworms, has joined the ranks of the country's national scientists.

In Proclamation No. 643 dated Aug. 2, President Marcos gave Davide the rank and title of national scientist, the highest honor conferred by the government on a Filipino in the profession. Davide became the 44th honoree to join the Order of National Scientists.

The President also belatedly issued Proclamation No. 642, which conferred the same rank and title on Carmencita Padilla for her work in clinical genetics and newborn screening.

Padilla was inducted into the order during a ceremony at Malacañang in August 2023.

Magsaysay laureate

Davide, 90, was recognized for discovering nematode-trapping fungi and developing them as a biological control agent against nematode pests attacking bananas, potatoes, citrus, pineapple, rice and other crops.

“Preeminent achievements by Filipinos in science and technology that have contributed to the progress of the country and humanity deserve the recognition and acknowledgment of our

government in pursuit of its policy of furthering national development through enhanced scientific and technological research and development,” the President said.

An alumnus and professor emeritus at the University of the Philippines (UP) in Los Baños, Davide received the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2012, considered Asia’s version of the Nobel Prize, for his many years of teaching and research on nematode pests in crops.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation recognized Davide for his “steadfast passion in placing the power and discipline of science in the hands of Filipino farmers, who have consequently multiplied their yields, created productive farming communities, and rediscovered the dignity of their labor.”

He was also feted as an “Outstanding Agricultural Scientist” by the Department of Agriculture in 1994.

Pension, other benefits

Davide is the older brother of former Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

As a national scientist, Davide will receive a medallion and citation as well as a financial gratuity to be determined by the National Academy of Science and

Technology (NAST).

National scientists enjoy the same privileges as national artists, such as a monthly life pension, medical and hospitalization benefits, a place of honor at national state functions and a state funeral at Libingan ng mga Bayani.

The NAST, along with the rank and title of national scientist, was created in December 1976 by Mr. Marcos’ father, then President Ferdinand Marcos Sr., through Presidential Decree No. 1003-A. Padilla, a former chancellor of UP Manila, was recognized for her contributions that led to the enactment of Republic Act No. 9288, or the 2004 Newborn Screening Act, Republic Act No. 10747, or the 2016 Rare Diseases Act, and the establishment of the Philippine Genome Center, which was at the forefront of the government’s COVID-19 response.

Davide and Padilla are among 11 national scientists who are still alive.

Asked why the proclamation declaring Padilla as a national scientist came a year late, Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. said it was initially assumed that last year’s conferment of the rank and title at the Palace event was enough.

“[But] after our request for a proclamation as a national scientist for Dr. Davide, it was deemed that a proclamation for national scientist Padilla was also needed. Malacañang has issued one dated Aug. 2,” he said in a message to reporters.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1971037/he-helped-farmers-save-crops-davide-named-natl-scientist>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Farmers cite delays in RCEF seed distribution

August 8, 2024 | 8:47 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/MICHAEL VARCAS

FARMERS said on Thursday that seed distribution financed by the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) is often delayed, and called for the fund to also support the development of better-quality seed.

In a statement, the Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) said that recipients of the rice seed subsidy program have also reported mismatches between available seed stocks and their preferred varieties.

“If we focus only on the distribution of free seed, the whole program will collapse once funding from RCEF is phased out. All our efforts to promote and sustain the use of quality seed will go to waste,” FFF National Manager Raul Q. Montemayor said.

RCEF, which receives P10 billion a year from rice import tariffs, sets aside P3 billion of this total for the propagation and distribution of inbred rice seed, overseen by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice).

PhilRice distributes an average of 3.3 million 20-kilo bags of certified seed to about 1.5 million farmers each year.

“Aside from quality seed, farmers also need support for irrigation, fertilizer, credit, farm machinery, crop insurance, marketing assistance and other key interventions which may not all be covered by RCEF,” Mr. Montemayor added.

He said RCEF should not be seen as a stand-alone program but rather as “part of a comprehensive and integrated support system for rice farmers.”

RCEF is a component of the Rice Tariffication Law of 2019, which liberalized rice imports but charged importers a tariff on their shipments. The tariff was initially set at 35% for Southeast Asian grain, but has since been reduced to 15% on grain from all sources.

Citing the Philippine Statistics Authority, the FFF said that the average yield for rice has not hit five metric tons per hectare, the level at which demand for imports might recede.

“Domestic output has not kept in step with the growth in population, and the country has become increasingly reliant on rice imports,” it added.

The 35% import tariff set by the Rice Tariffication Law, or Republic Act No. 11203, was cut to 15% by Executive Order No. 62, with the government citing the need to contain inflation stemming from high rice prices. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/08/08/613057/farmers-cite-delays-in-rcef-seed-distribution/>

REMATE:

Lobo, Batangas nagdeklara ng state of calamity sa ASF

August 8, 2024 09:32



MANILA, Philippines – Idineklara ang state of calamity sa Lobo, Batangas dahil sa banta ng African Swine Fever (ASF).

Base sa ulat, 17 sa 26 na barangay sa Lobo ang nag-ulat ng mga kaso ng ASF sa mga piggery.

Humihingi na ngayon ng tulong sa gobyerno ang mga hog raisers dahil sa banta ng ASF ay nagresulta sa P103 milyong halaga ng pinsala.

Sinabi ng Department of Agriculture (DA) na dalawa pang bayan sa Batangas ang apektado ng outbreak.

“We will do checkpoints in coordination with the PNP, LGU, and the Armed Forces para hindi makalabas yung infected na baboy. So magsasagawa kami ng mass

testing ng baboy. Lahat ng baboy na nag-test ng negative ay ilalabas natin ng Batangas,” ani Agriculture Secretary Francis Tiu Laurel Jr.

Tiniyak ng DA chief na ligtas kainin ang ASF-infected na baboy basta’t ito ay luto.

Sinabi rin ng DA na posibleng nagmula ang sakit sa mga infected na baboy na dati ay nakabaon ngunit lumutang sa itaas dahil sa pagbaha. *RNT*

<https://remate.ph/lobo-batangas-nagdeklara-ng-state-of-calamity-sa-asf/>

REMATE:

Mas mababang presyo ng bigas sa darating na mga buwan, posible – Recto

August 8, 2024 10:15



MANILA, Philippines – INAASAHAN ng gobyerno na bababa ang presyo ng bigas sa mga darating na buwan.

Ang dahilan ayon kay Finance Secretary Ralph Recto ay dahil sa pagtapyas sa taripa sa imported na bigas.

Kaalinsabay nito, magbibigay naman ang gobyerno ng mas maraming suporta sa mga lokal na magsasaka.

Hiniling naman ni Recto na payagan ang nagpapatuloy

na agriculture projects, gaya ng irrigation at dam construction, mas maraming oras para makompleto upang maitaas ang rice production.

Tinutugunan din ng pamahalaan ang ‘supply chain issues’ ng bansa.

Sa kabilang dako, sinabi pa rin ni Recto na ang budget na ibinigay sa Agriculture Department ay doble ang laki kumpara sa 2022 budget nito. *Kris Jose*

<https://remate.ph/mas-mababang-presyo-ng-bigas-sa-darating-na-mga-buwan-posible-recto/>

REMATE:

Agri, infra damage sa hagupit ng habagat, bagyo higit P6.3B na

August 8, 2024 15:10



MANILA, Philippines- Sumampa ang pinsala sa agrikultura at imprastruktura dahil sa epekto ng southwest monsoon at Bagyong Butchoy at Carina sa tinatayang mahigit P6.3 bilyon, base sa National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) sa pinakahuli nitong situational report

nitong Huwebes.

Sinabi nitong umabot ang pinsala sa agrikultura sa P2.039 bilyon sa Regions 1, 2, 3, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Regions 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), at sa Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

Samantala, nakapagtala ng P4.31 bilyong pinsala sa imprastruktura sa Regions 1, 2, 3, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Regions 8, 10, 11, 12, BARMM at sa CAR.

Sa tala, ang bilang ng mga napinsalang kabahayan ay 8,577 sa Regions 1, 2, 3, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Regions 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, Caraga, BARMM at sa CAR.

Nananatili naman sa 48 ang bilang ng mga naiulat na nasawi, kung saan 14 pa lamang ang kumpirmado.

Samantala, 1,715,194 pamilya sa 17 rehiyon ang apektado ng masamang panahon. RNT/SA

<https://remate.ph/agri-infra-damage-sa-hagupit-ng-habagat-bagyo-higit-p6-3b-na/>

MANILA STANDARD:

Cabbage harvest time



By Dave Leprozo

August 8, 2024, 10:00 pm

Farmers of Sto. Tomas, Tuba, Benguet load up their harvested cabbage to a lorry for transport to the market.

<https://www.manilastandard.net/gallery/314482000/cabbage-harvest-time.html>

MANILA STANDARD:

Dried fish



By Danny Pata

August 8, 2024, 11:00 pm

A resident of Noveleta, Cavite resident arranges fish to be sun-dried. Due to health and safety concerns, the catching and selling of marine products in the coastal areas of Cavite is currently prohibited.

<https://www.manilastandard.net/gallery/314482033/dried-fish.html>

Why we need middle-class farmers



By Dr. Fermin D. Adriano, PhD

August 9, 2024

IF one is looking for a sector in Philippine agriculture that occupies the economic doldrums, one does not need to go further than the dairy industry.

Thirty years ago, it could meet just above 1 percent of the country's total demand. It was for this reason why our well-intentioned policymakers established the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) in 1992 and the National Dairy Authority (NDA) in 1995, with the purpose of promoting greater milk production in the country. Our legislators rightly assessed that milk and meat from carabaos and cows were rich in protein, indispensable to the proper nourishment and development of the brains and bodies of Filipino children.

In countries like Japan, the United States, Thailand and many others in Europe, milk is given as a free drink to school-age children as it is important in helping promote proper nutrition and brain development. Those countries can easily implement the nutrition program because they have ample milk supplies. In the Philippines, after 30 years of the PCC and the NDA's existence and billions of pesos funneled to them, milk production seems to have stayed in a time warp. Total supply can still only meet just over 1 percent of total demand.

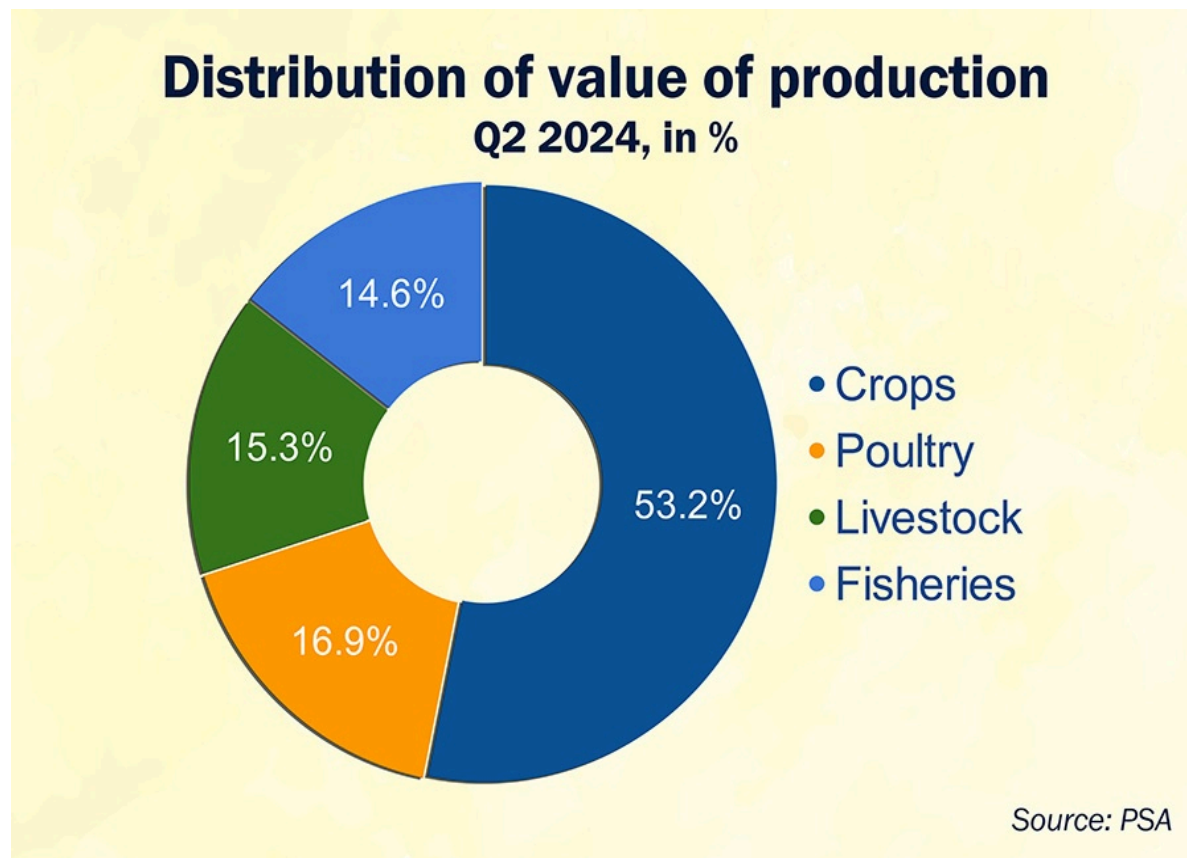
There are several reasons why our dairy industry cannot flourish and develop. It ranges from the flawed romanticization of the carabao's — our national animal — potential (scientifically is proven to be less than cows) to significantly raise dairy production to the fragmentation of farmlands due to agrarian reform and the NDA and the PCC's poor extension services capability. Despite efforts to organize small dairy farmers into cooperatives, there have been more failures than successes unlike in India and Bangladesh.

The reason is that dairy production needs a lot of attention from cattle or carabao raisers such as the provision of adequate silage and veterinary services to prevent disease outbreaks. An ordinary Filipino farmer, whose average educational attainment is Grade 5 or 6, does not have the proper training and education nor sufficient capital to sustain a viable dairy industry. The problem is exacerbated if the government's dairy extension services are poor or in most cases absent.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/08/09/business/top-business/why-we-need-middle-class-farmers/1962853>

Farm output contracts 3.3%

By Jed Macapagal
August 8, 2024



Agriculture production value contracted 3.3 percent year-on-year in the second quarter on the dismal performance of crops and livestock, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed.

At constant 2018 prices, the decline translated to a value of P413.91 billion for the second quarter of the year.

For the first six months of the year, the value of production in agriculture and fisheries at constant 2018 prices is equivalent to a 1.5 percent decrease.

The crops subsector's value of production dropped 8.6 percent year-on-year, equivalent to P220.04 billion and accounted for 53.2 percent or more than half of the total value of production of the country's agriculture and fisheries.

Weaker production were registered for palay at 9.4 percent to 3.85 million MT from 4.25 million MT as well as for corn at 20.4 percent to 1.17 million MT from 1.47 million MT.

Reductions were also recorded for sugarcane, onion, tomato, mungo, abaca,

rubber, cassava, eggplant, sweet potato, ampalaya, coconut, banana, mango, pineapple, tobacco, coffee and potato.

The only crops which showed improvements for the period were calamansi, cacao and cabbage.

The livestock subsector, which contributed 15.3 percent or P63.33 billion of the total value of agricultural production, posted a slight year-on-year decline in value of 0.3 percent.

Hog production weakened by 0.2 percent to 422.06 MT from 422.72 MT while carabao production fell 2.4 percent to 32.90 MT from 33.72 MT.

The drop in the livestock sector was cushioned by improvements in dairy, cattle and goat.

The poultry subsector recorded the highest improvement of 8.7 percent to P70.15 billion and which accounted for 16.9 percent of total agriculture output.

The performance of the subsector was pushed by increases in the production of chicken, chicken eggs and duck, with duck eggs as the only segment which recorded decline. All segments of the subsector including chicken, chicken eggs, ducks and duck eggs posted improvements.

Chicken production reached 520.48 MT from 477.76 MT, an 8.9 percent growth while chicken eggs output hit 198.04 MT from 181.74 MT, a 9 percent increase.

The fisheries subsector posted a 2.2-percent increase in value of production, contributing P60.40 billion or 14.6 percent of total agricultural output.

Increases were recorded for skipjack, big eye tuna, yellowfin tuna, frigate tuna, vannamei, blue crab, fimbriated sardines, talakitok and alumahan.

Production declines were observed for tiger prawn, grouper, seaweeds, sapsap, matanggaka, mud crab, galunggong, squid, tilapia, milkfish, bisugo and tamban.

DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said despite the overall drop, the agriculture sector “has demonstrated resilience, bolstered by strategic interventions” that limited the impact of El Niño on crop harvest and the African swine fever (ASF) on hog production, particularly during the second quarter.

“In response to the El Niño-induced challenges, the DA has launched several key initiatives to support the agricultural sector. These measures include P14.54 billion allocated for Rice Farmers Financial Assistance, production support, farmer indemnification, and loan provisions. Additionally, the DA has earmarked P350 million for ASF vaccine procurement, pending Food and Drug Administration approval, and continues to promote biosecurity measures to control the spread of ASF,” de Mesa said.

He said the DA’s proactive approach aims to mitigate the impact of adverse weather conditions and strengthen the sector’s capacity to rebound.

“The support measures are designed to enhance productivity and support farmers, demonstrating the DA’s commitment to sustaining agricultural growth and stability despite external challenges,” de Mesa said.

Danilo Fausto, Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. president, said additional mitigation measures are needed to curb the effects of climate change to the local agri sector.

“Climate change or El Niño, greatly contributed to the decline in crops’ volume of production affecting palay, corn and sugarcane. Effects of climate change is really difficult to control. Additional mitigation measures and more preparation than what was done should be put in place for future interventions,” Fausto said.

https://malaya.com.ph/news_business/farm-output-contracts-3-3/?amp

Farmers need more than seeds

By
Jed Macapagal
August 9, 2024

THE Federation of Free Farmers urged Congress to utilize the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) in developing and strengthening the whole rice seed system instead of merely distributing free planting materials to farmers.

Under the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL), P3 billion out of the P10 billion allocated annually for RCEF are spent mainly to propagate and distribute inbred rice seeds for selected rice farmers by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice).

FFF said since RTL's enactment in 2019, PhilRice has given an average of 3.3 million 20-kilo bags of certified seeds to 1.5 million farmers each year.

“If we focus only on the distribution of free seeds, the whole program will collapse once funding from RCEF is phased out. All our efforts to promote and sustain the use of quality seeds will go to waste,” said Raul Montemayor, FFF national manager, in a statement.

FFF said while the rice seed subsidy scheme has been among the best performing programs under RCEF, there are reports of delayed delivery and poor quality of seeds and mismatches between available stocks and preferred varieties of farmers.

“Aside from quality seeds, farmers also need support for irrigation, fertilizer, credit, farm machinery, crop insurance, marketing assistance and other key interventions which may not all be covered by RCEF. Hence, RCEF should not be seen as a stand-alone program but rather as part of a comprehensive and integrated support system for rice farmers,” Montemayor said.

https://malaya.com.ph/news_business/farmers-need-more-than-seeds/?amp

Grain expectations

- August 9, 2024



In a bid to ensure food security and stimulate the economy, sacks of rice were distributed to 300 beneficiaries from Barangays Pinyahan, Central and Pag-asa in Quezon City during the launch of the “Murang Bigas sa NIA at P29” program at the National Irrigation Administration headquarters on August 8, 2024.

The affordable rice comes from farmers in NIA’s Contract Farming Initiative, aligning with President Marcos’s broader agenda to stabilize the economy by supporting local agriculture and ensuring accessible food for all.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/09/grain-expectations-2/>

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:

P29/K bigas sinimulan nang ibenta sa Kadiwa stores

Joy Cantos - Pilipino Star Ngayon
August 9, 2024 | 12:00am



Residents availed of a 10-kilo sack each as they queued for the P29 per kilo rice at the Kadiwa Market during the launch of the “Murang Bigas sa NIA @ 29 pesos” inside the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Headquarters in Quezon City on August 8, 2024.

STAR/Miguel De Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — Nagsimula nang magbenta ang gobyerno nitong Huwebes ng P29 kada kilo ng bigas sa mga Kadiwa stores sa ilang tanggapan ng National Irrigation Administration (NIA).

“Ngayong araw ang simula ng Kadiwa center sa NIA, makabibili ng P29/kilo na bigas ang senior citizen, miyembro ng 4Ps,” pahayag ni NIA Administrator Eduardo Guillen.

Samantalang nakatakda namang ilunsad sa susunod na linggo ang programa sa P29 kilo ng bigas sa mga Kadiwa Centers para mas marami pang mga konsumer mula sa nabanggit na sektor ang makabili.

Ayon kay Guillen at Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., limitado lamang sa 10 kilo ng bigas kada konsumer ang pahihintulutan upang mas marami pa ang mapagsilbihan ng nasabing P29 kilo ng bigas program.

Bagong ani ang bigas na ibebenta na masarap at magandang klase.

Aminado naman ang opisyal na ang mataas na presyo ng bigas ay isang matinding hamon sa gobyerno lalo na sa mga surveys ay lumilitaw na mataas pa rin ang inflation sa bansa.

Una nang sinabi ni Laurel na ang pagbebenta ng bigas sa halagang P29 kada kilo ay isang long term program ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/08/09/2376475/p29k-bigas-sinimulan-nang-ibenta-sa-kadiwa-stores>

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:

Kaso ng ASF sa La Union, tumataas

Jun Elias - Pilipino Star Ngayon
August 9, 2024 | 12:00am

SAN FERNANDO CITY, La Union, Philippines — Patuloy umano ang pagtaas ng bilang ng kaso ng African Swine Fever (ASF) sa La Union.

Ito ay batay sa record ng Department of Agriculture (DA) regional office na bagong 48 baboy sa Barangay Namtutan ang apektado.

Sinabi ni Mayor Herminigildo Gualberto na ang naiulat na 48 baboy na tinamaan ng ASF, ang siyam dito ay namatay habang ang 39 ay pinatay matapos magpositibo sa isinagawang laboratory testing ng DA.

Idinagdag pa ni Gualberto na ang insidente ay kauna-unahang ASF positive case sa lungsod na nagsimula sa backyard hog raising.

Kinategorya na ng DA ang San Fernando bilang 'red zone' at nagsagawa na rin ng kaukulang pag-iingat tulad ng quarantine, at pagkatay ng mga baboy sa mga barangays ay ipinagbawal maging ang pagbebenta.

Binigyan ng kasiguraduhan ng mayor na ang mga ibinebentang baboy sa palengke ay maiging iniksamin ng veterinary office.

Bukod sa San Fernando, ang mga bayan ng Balaoan at Luna ay naitala rin ang ASF positive cases. Pitong barangay ang apektado sa Balaoan at dalawa sa Luna.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2024/08/09/2376520/kaso-ng-asf-sa-la-union-tumataas>