

## CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

### A. MANILA BULLETIN:

Quirino farmers to benefit from ₱96-M investment in new equipment and rice processing facility

Guillen cites advantages of NIA again under OP's supervision

Positive outlook for Philippine palm oil industry at National Congress

### B. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Farmers receive first processing facility funded by coco levy

Watchdog refutes DA's claim of lower rice price

House eyeing to finalize 2025 national budget by September 25

### C. REMATE:

PBBM namahagi ng P64.5M tulong sa mga mangingisdang Navoteño na apektado ng oil spill

House Speaker: Pagbaba ng presyo ng bigas sa P42 dahil kay PBBM

### D. PEOPLE'S JOURNAL:

USC, SEARCA win global accolade for bioplastics project

### E. BUSINESS MIRROR:

New Zealand delegation explores climate-smart agriculture, dairy innovations at UPLB

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Quirino farmers to benefit from ₱96-M investment in new equipment and rice processing facility

BY [JEL SANTOS](#)

Sep 12, 2024 05:29 PM



(MB FILE PHOTO)

Farmers in Quirino province are set to benefit from a ₱96-million investment in new farming equipment and a rice processing facility which was inaugurated by the Department of Agriculture (DA) and PhilMech on Thursday, Sept. 12.

According to the DA, the rice processing facility, equipped with a rice mill and dryers, was granted to the Diffun Saranay and Development Cooperative (DISADECO), representing 2,320 farmers who oversee 3,502 hectares of rice fields.

The agency also stated that along with the processing facility, tractors, harvesters, and threshers were provided to 13 farmers' cooperatives and associations in Quirino to aid in modernizing their farming practices.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco “Kiko” Tiu Laurel Jr. led the inauguration, emphasizing the government's commitment to strengthening postharvest systems.

“This support package to Quirino rice farmers, which features a state-of-the-art rice processing system, is part of the Department of Agriculture’s determined push to improve post-harvest

systems and infrastructures across the country to reduce production losses and ensure the country's food security," he said in his speech.

The DA noted that the new Rice Processing System (RPS) includes a multi-stage rice mill with a processing capacity of 4-5 tons per hour, or over 48 tons per day.

As such, the agency said it is equipped with three recirculating dryers with a combined capacity of 36 tons per batch, as well as two additional dryers with a capacity of 6 tons per batch.

The total cost of the facility and equipment for DISADECO amounts to ₱78.1 million, the department added.

"The support package provided by PhilMech to Diffun farmers' cooperative was bankrolled with funds from the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, or Rice Fund, of the Rice Tariffication Law. PhilMech gets ₱5 billion from tariff collected from imported rice between 2019 and 2024 to modernize Philippine agriculture," the agency noted.

Senator Cynthia Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, was also present at the event.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/9/12/quirino-farmers-to-benefit-from-96-m-investment-in-new-equipment-and-rice-processing-facility>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Guillen cites advantages of NIA again under OP's supervision

BY [RAYMUND ANTONIO](#)

Sep 12, 2024 01:39 PM

Transferring the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) back under the Office of the President (OP) will streamline the approval process of big-ticket projects that would benefit farmers, irrigators, and the public, its administrator said on Thursday, Sept. 12.



*Administrator Eduardo Guillen (Screengrab from Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon via PTV)*

During the Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon briefing, NIA Administrator Eduardo Guillen stressed the importance of putting the NIA back under the auspices of the OP.

“Tama po yun kasi direktso na tayo sa Office ng Presidente. Kasi noon marami kang dadaanang mga proseso, eh ngayon po mas mapapabilis (That’s right because now we’re under the Office of the President. Before we have to go through a lot of processes, but it will now become faster),” he said when asked if projects on food security, water management, and flood control will be completed faster.

“I can assure you na talagang sa mga susunod na taon lalo na ngayong nasa OP na kami, mararamdaman ng ating mga farmers, ng ating mga irrigators’ association po ang mas mabilis at mabisang programa ng ating gobyerno (that in the coming years now that we’re under the OP, our farmers and irrigators’ associations will feel the faster and more effective programs of our government),” the official added.

Previously, Guillen explained that big-ticket projects have to undergo clearing houses and permit regulations that usually take time.

“Ngayon ay didiretso na po ito. So, makakatipid na po tayo ng ilang—usually mga two to three months po yan ang matitipid (Now, this is going to be faster. So, we’re going to take less time—usually around two to three months),” the NIA official said.

Even coordination with other government agencies like the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for water management and flood control projects will now be easier under the OP, he added.

Marcos moved back the NIA under the OP through Executive Order No. 69 and ordered its reorganization.

The NIA Board will now be composed of a representative from the OP, NIA administrator, secretaries of the DPWH, the Department of Agriculture (DA), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and a representative from the private sector who will be appointed by the President.

Marcos underscored the importance of streamlining the functional relationships of agencies to promote coordination and efficiency.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/9/12/guillen-cites-advantages-of-nia-again-under-op-s-supervision>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Positive outlook for Philippine palm oil industry at National Congress

BY [MB BUSINESS](#)

Sep 12, 2024 01:38 PM

The recently concluded National Palm Oil Congress in Davao City highlighted an optimistic future for the Philippine palm oil industry. Ares Merchants Philippines Inc. (AMPI), a leading supplier of vegetable oils in the country, observed significant improvements in local palm oil production and anticipated further growth.



From right: Jerry Taray, CEO of Kilambay Plantation Corp.; Erwin Garcia, President of AC Garcia Palm Oil Corp.; Dr. Dexter Buted, PCA Administrator; Gov. Emmylou Mendoza of North Cotabato Province; Harry Brock, CEO of Univanich Carmen; Yap Yau Kang, AC Garcia Consultant; Ryan Talino, Univanich Partner; Jose Leonardo Tanada, Managing Director of Ares Merchants Philippines, Inc.; and Dante Abad, AVP of Landbank, at the 13th National Palm Oil Congress held in Davao City on Aug. 14-15, 2024.

AMPI Managing Director Jose Leonardo Tanada noted, “Strong global demand for our locally produced coconut oil in the EU has created a gap in the local vegetable oil market. Palm Olein is the most economical substitute.” He also expressed optimism about the industry’s expansion, citing an annual increase of 2,500-5,000 hectares in oil palm cultivation. “This growth will help address the underutilized capacity of our oil palm manufacturers,” Tanada added.

According to the Department of Agriculture's (DA) Philippine Palm Oil Industry Roadmap 2024-2033, production is on the rise. The area planted with palm oil has grown from around 53,000 hectares in 2022 to approximately 63,000 hectares in 2023, as reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority. Region XII leads in production with 33 percent of the total area, followed by the Caraga Region with 27 percent.

Tanada emphasized the need for ongoing government support to sustain industry growth until farmers can achieve profitability. "Under optimal conditions, oil palm plantations start producing fruit after 3-4 years and continue for 25 years. The PCA and private entities should provide financial support during this gestation period," he explained.

Tanada also highlighted the importance of balancing domestic production with palm oil imports. Despite increased local production, the Philippines remains a significant importer relative to its output. "Encouraging local production creates jobs for Filipinos, but imports are crucial to prevent hoarding and mitigate potential inflationary issues for the country," Tanada said.

Industry experts have identified about one million hectares available for oil palm cultivation, with 98 percent located in Mindanao. Caraga alone holds approximately 40 percent of the total prospective area for palm oil production. The Philippines currently faces a surplus in milling capacity, with current production at only around 180 metric tons per hour compared to the total capacity of 275 metric tons per hour. Industry stakeholders hope that the growing production of oil palm fruits will soon be able to support and fully utilize these facilities.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/9/12/positive-outlook-for-philippine-palm-oil-industry-at-national-congress>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Farmers receive first processing facility funded by coco levy

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

September 13, 2024 | 12:00am



The facility, capable of producing cocopeat and geonet, was built on the land owned by the cooperative that has at least 127 members who are all coconut farmers, according to the agency.

BusinessWorld / Lean S. Daval, Jr.

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) has turned over to a coconut farmers group in Surigao Del Norte its first ever coconut shared processing facility financed by the coconut levy fund.

The attached agency of the Department of Agriculture said it gave a P5.17-million coconut shared processing facility (SPF) to the Mabini United Farmers Cooperative in Placer, Surigao Del Norte.

**ADVERTISING**



The facility, capable of producing cocopeat and geonet, was built on the land owned by the cooperative that has at least 127 members who are all coconut farmers, according to the agency.

The facility marks the first under the SPF component of the P75-billion Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan two years after the government launched the roadmap outlining how the coconut levy fund would be used.

The SPF component receives a 10 percent share of the fund pool that is meant to be used for the procurement and establishment of shared facilities for the coconut value-adding and processing.

PhilMech said the facility has an internal rate of return of 171.74 percent given the growing demand for geonet and cocopeat.

This means that project would generate a P10.30 earning for every peso investment made with an estimated payback period of less than a year.

“In this case, the relatively short payback period suggests the project can generate sufficient cash flows to cover its initial investment within a reasonable timeframe,” it said.

The agency said farmers could now use their coconut husks as raw materials for the shared facility instead of just discarding them as farm waste.

The facility requires 5,000 coconuts husks per production run.

Farmers usually throw coconut husks as waste or use them to produce charcoal, according to PhilMech.

Under the SPF component, farmers can receive various establishments, processing plants and equipment needed to manufacture other coconut-based products such as buying stations, coconut coir processing plant, integrated processing center, among others.

Some of the products covered by the SPF are coconut oil, desiccated coconut, coconut coir, coconut shell, coconut sap and young coconut.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/09/13/2384812/farmers-receive-first-processing-facility-funded-coco-levy>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Watchdog refutes DA's claim of lower rice price

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

September 13, 2024 | 12:00am



Rice dealers display rice and their prices at Sampol Market, at San Jose del Monte Bulacan on May 21, 2023.

Philstar.com / Jovannie Lambayan

MANILA, Philippines — Consumer watchdog Bantay Bigas yesterday refuted a claim of the Department of Agriculture (DA) that the retail price of rice has started to go down.

The group said the P45 per kilo rice that the DA has been citing is no longer available in the market.

“The retail price of rice remains high. The prevailing price of rice in the market was still P50 (per kilo) and higher,” Bantay Bigas spokesperson Cathy Estavillo told The STAR yesterday.

“We saw the P45 (a kilo of rice) two weeks ago, but on Sept. 8 it was no longer available. Retailers said the price drop was intended for premium rice only,” Estavillo said.

She said ordinary people could not afford the cost of the premium rice.

The watchdog said the retail price of rice in Sorsogon reached P65 per kilo.

“It’s P65 per kilo if bought in cash and P70 on credit,” Estavillo said.

She said the 15 percent tariff on imported rice as provided under Executive Order 62 did not help bring down the retail price of the commodity.

Based on the monitoring of the DA in Metro Manila markets, the retail price of local regular milled rice ranged between P45 and P51 per kilo, local well-milled rice between P47 and P55, and premium rice between P47 and P55 per kilo.

Special rice is sold at P60 per kilo.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/09/13/2384831/watchdog-refutes-das-claim-lower-rice-price>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# House eyeing to finalize 2025 national budget by September 25

[Dominique Nicole Flores](#) - Philstar.com

September 12, 2024 | 7:11pm



Facade of the House of Representatives at the Batasan Complex in Quezon City.

The STAR / Michael Varcas, File photo

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives aims to finalize the proposed P6.352-trillion national budget for 2025 by September 25.

Rep. Stella Quimbo (Marikina, 2nd District), who is the vice chairperson of the House appropriations committee, said on Thursday, September 12, that they aim to approve the 2025 General Appropriations Bill (GAB) on third and final reading within eight days, starting September 16.

On September 16, the agencies scheduled for debates include the Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Justice and Judiciary.

On September 17, the House will deliberate the budget of the Office of the Ombudsman, Commission on Human Rights, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Tourism and Department of Labor and Employment.

On September 18, the budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Commission on Elections, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Trade and Industry, five executive offices, and state universities and colleges will be discussed.

The other executive offices include the Commission on Higher and Education, Games and Amusement Board, Philippine Space Agency, Philippine Sports Commission and Anti-Money Laundering Council.

On September 19, plenary debates will cover the budget of the Department of National Defense, Department of Migrant Workers, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and five government corporations.

On September 20, the budget of the Presidential Communications Office, Department of Information and Communications Technology, Department of Science and Technology, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, two government corporations and 10 executive offices will be deliberated upon.

The executive offices scheduled for September 12 include the Commission on the Filipino Language, Film Development Council of the Philippines, Optical Media Board, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, Climate Change Commission, Commission on Filipino Overseas, Philippine Racing Commission, Philippine Competition Commission and Governance Commission for government-owned and controlled corporations.

On September 23, the government agencies scheduled to face budget deliberations in the plenary are the Office of the Vice President, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Department of Energy and 11 executive offices.

On September 24, the House will focus on the budget of the Civil Service Commission, Commission on Audit, Department of Education, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Transportation, two government corporations and one executive office.

On September 25, the Department of Public Works and Highways, Office of the President and Congress will be the last government agencies that lawmakers will finalize before approving the 2025 GAB.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/09/12/2384808/house-eyeing-finalize-2025-national-budget-september-25>

**REMATE:**

# **PBBM namahagi ng P64.5M tulong sa mga mangingisdang Navoteño na apektado ng oil spill**

September 12, 2024 13:13



MANILA, Philippines- Nagpaabot si Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ng cash assistance na nagkagalaga ng P64.5 milyon para sa mahigit na 8,600 mangingisda ng Navotas na labis na naapektuhan ng malawakang oil spill sa Bataan province.

Sa isinagawang turnover ceremony sa Navotas Sports Complex sa Navotas City, inanunsyo ni Pangulong Marcos ang kanyang naging desisyon na itaas ang presidential assistance sa bawat benepisyaryo, gawin itong P7,500 mula sa P5,000 bilang regalo niya sa mga apektadong indibidwal, magdiriwang ng kanyang ika-67 taong kaarawan ang Pangulo bukas, araw ng Biyernes, Setyembre 13.

“Ang tadhana natin ay hindi nakatali sa trahedyang at sa sakuna, kung hindi sa ating kakayahan magtulungan, magkaisa, at bumangon mula sa pagsubok,” ayon kay Pangulong Marcos.

“Sama-sama nating haharapin ang bukas—hindi lamang para malampasan ang unos, kung hindi para umusbong mula rito ang mas matatag at mas handa, at anumang hamon ng buhay ay kaya natin harapin,” dagdag na wika nito. Itinurn-over naman ni Pangulong Marcos ang tseke sa city government ng Navotas.

Tinuran pa ng Pangulo na magdo-donate rin ang tanggapan ni House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez ng tig-10 kilo ng bigas sa bawat benepisaryo.

Winika pa nito na ang pag-uusap sa pagitan ng gobyerno at nagmamay-ari ng MTKR Terranova, tumaob sa katubigan ng Bataan, ay nagpapatuloy para sa kompensasyon ng mga mangingisda na ang ikinabubuhay ay labis na naapektuhan ng paglubog ng motor tanker.

“Ang tulong na ating ipapamahagi ngayon ay hindi lamang simbolo ng suporta, kundi ng ating paninindigan na hindi natin pababayaan ang ating mga kababayan, lalo na sa panahon ng pangangailangan,” ang sinabi pa ng Punong Ehekutibo.

Sinabi pa ng Chief Executive na tinitingnan din ng pamahalaan ang posibilidad na ang motor tankers na may kinalaman sa Bataan oil spill ay sangkot sa oil smuggling.

“Lahat ito ay iniimbestigahan para tiyakin na pananagutin natin ang mga may sala,” ayon kay Pangulong Marcos.

Nauna rito, mayroong 1,384,211 litro ng oily waste ang nakolekta mula sa MTKR Terranova, may kargang 1.4 milyong litro ng industrial fuel oil nang lumubog ito noong huling bahagi ng Hulyo ngayong taon.

Inaasahan naman ng Pangulo na kaagad na matatapos ang oil siphoning mula sa lumubog na tanker sa lalong madaling panahon.

“Sa gitna ng mga katanungan, may mabuting balita naman tayong hatid. Ligtas nang ihain ang mga isda at iba pang mga pagkaing dagat sa ating mga lamesa. Samakatuwid, maayos po ang kalidad ng hangin at tubig ng Navotas para sa kalusugan ng ating mga kababayan,” tinuran ng Pangulo.

Sinasabing labis na nagdurusa ang mga mangingisda ng Navotas mula sa mababang farmgate prices dahil sa takot sa oil spill.

Sa kabilang dako, makalipas ang ilang araw nang lumubog ang oil tanker, naglagay ang Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) ng oil spill boom sa entrada ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) floodgates sa Barangay Tanza Uno, Navotas City bilang preventive measure.

Inihayag pa ni Pangulong Marcos na ang implementasyon ng “Kalinisan Program” ng Department of the Interior and Local Government ay “an initiative aimed at consolidating efforts to maintain and provide a healthy and safe environment for the public, is also crucial in promoting cleanliness in Navotas City and keeping it safe from the threat of disasters.”

“Mahalagang bahagi ng programang ito ang paghikayat sa mga komunidad na magsagawa ng mga solid waste management intervention at clean-up activity na makatutulong upang mapigilan na maharangan ng mga basura ang ating mga flood control structure,” giit ni Marcos. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/pbbm-namahagi-ng-p64-5m-tulong-sa-mga-mangingisdang-navoteno-na-apektado-ng-oil-spill/>



**REMATE:**

# House Speaker: Pagbaba ng presyo ng bigas sa P42 dahil kay PBBM

September 12, 2024 09:17



MANILA, Philippines – Pinasalamatan ni House Speaker Martin Romualdez ang administrasyong Marcos sa unti unti nang pagbaba ng presyo ng bigas sa merkado kung saan ilan sa magagandang klase ng bigas ay mabibili na lamang sa P42 kada kilo.

Ang pahayag ay ginawa ni Romualdez kasunud ng ginawa nyang pagbisita sa Guadalupe Market sa Makati City, Nepa-Q Mart at Farmers Market sa Quezon City.

Sinabi ni Romualdez na sa ilalim ng Executive Order (EO) 62 o ang pagbaba ng taripa sa 15% mula sa 35% na ipinatupad noong July 5 ay nagresulta na sa pagbaba ng presyo ng bigas.

“Nakita natin may 45 pesos kada kilo, meron ding 42 pesos for broken rice, yung well-milled 45 pesos. At yun talaga ang gusto

nating makita, na pababa nang pababa. On behalf of the House of Representatives, we welcome this positive development. This is truly in line with the Marcos administration's commitment to ensuring that food, particularly rice, remains affordable and accessible for all Filipinos," paliwanag ni Romualdez.

Tiniyak ni Romualdez na ang pagbabang presyo ng bigas ay magtutuloy tuloy na hanggang sa pagpasok ng Kapaskuhan.

Samantala, sinabi ni Romualdez na hindi lamang ang pagbaba ng presyo ng bigas sa merkado ang tinututukan ng pamahalaan subalit tiunutugunan din ang ang mismong ugat ng problema, kabilang na dito ang paglatag ng solusyon para sa pagtaas ng domestic rice production, pagsasasaayos ng import regulations at paghabol sa mga sangkot sa illegal trade practices.

"President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has made it clear that food security is a top priority for his administration. This is not just about lowering prices temporarily, but about ensuring a sustainable supply chain that benefits both consumers and farmers," paliwanag ni Romualdez.

Batay sa monitoring ng Department of Agriculture ang average retail price ng mga bigas ay nasa P47 hanggang P51 kada kilo. *Gail Mendoza*

<https://remate.ph/house-speaker-pagbaba-ng-presyo-ng-bigas-sa-p42-dahil-kay-pbbm/>

**PEOPLE'S JOURNAL:**

# USC, SEARCA win global accolade for bioplastics project

Thursday, September 12, 2024 [SEARCA](#)

The **University of San Carlos (USC)** and the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture ([SEARCA](#)) shared the spotlight when a video featuring the [SEARCA Grants](#) for Research towards Agricultural Innovative Solutions (GRAINS)-funded project of USC was named one of the Top 10 entries in the prestigious Nature Awards for the Science in Shorts filmmaking competition. This recognition shines a spotlight on groundbreaking work in sustainable agriculture, with the SEARCA x USC entry competing against 250 global submissions. The winning video, titled “Unusually sustainable – bioplastics from shrimp shells plus mango waste!”, introduces an innovative approach to tackling plastic pollution by creating biodegradable bioplastics from shrimp shells and mango waste. This eco-friendly, low-carbon solution is a sustainable alternative to conventional plastics and addresses one of the most pressing environmental issues of today.

The project was led by Dr. Francis Siacor of USC with financial support from SEARCA GRAINS, which funds innovative agricultural research projects, supports knowledge sharing, and facilitates partnerships to accelerate the adoption of sustainable technologies. USC’s bioplastics project exemplifies how GRAINS nurtures agricultural solutions that have both environmental and societal impact.

The USC project highlights the role of circular agriculture in waste management. By transforming discarded materials into bioplastics, the project not only mitigates plastic pollution but also adds value to agricultural waste products. This aligns with SEARCA’s mission of advancing agricultural innovation and fostering sustainable development.

The Nature Awards for Science in Shorts is a global competition that encourages researchers to communicate complex scientific ideas through creative and concise videos. The competition showcases the importance of science communication to bridge the gap between research and public understanding. USC’s entry was celebrated at the Curious2024 Future Insight Conference in Mainz, Germany where the Top 10 films were premiered.

“This recognition is a testament to the potential of agricultural research in addressing global challenges like plastic pollution, Dr. Glenn Gregorio, SEARCA Center Director, said.

He added that “We are proud to support projects like this through GRAINS to accelerate the adoption of groundbreaking technologies that benefit both people and the planet.”

Atty. Eric Reynoso, SEARCA Program Head for Emerging Innovation and Growth, said the Top 10 distinction garnered by the SEARCA x USC collaboration showcased the potential of local research to make a significant impact on the global stage.

The Top 10 videos, including the SEARCA x USC entry, are available for viewing on the official Nature Awards Science in Shorts platform.

<https://journal.com.ph/usc-searca-win-global-accolade-for-bioplastics-project/>

## **BUSINESS MIRROR:**

# **New Zealand delegation explores climate-smart agriculture, dairy innovations at UPLB**



**Amb. Catherine McIntosh (center), members of the New Zealand Embassy-Manila, New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries and the NZ Greenhouse Gas Research Centre were welcomed by UPLB chancellor Jose V. Camacho Jr., as well as the Dairy Training and Research Institute team.**

A NEW ZEALAND delegation witnessed the progress of the Asean Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) initiative at the University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB).

Amb. Catherine McIntosh led a delegation from the New Zealand Embassy in Manila, together with Matthew Johnson from the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries, as well as Drs. David Pacheco and Roger Hegarty of NZ Greenhouse Gas Research Centre (NZAGRC) in their visit to UPLB on August 26 and 27.

The delegation was warmly welcomed by UPLB chancellor Jose V. Camacho Jr. and the university community.

Supported by the New Zealand government, the Asean CSA initiative with the Philippines will promote sustainable agricultural practices, while enhancing food security without increasing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The initiative is a joint effort to reduce said emissions from livestock, especially in areas that are most affected by climate change. In the Philippines, agriculture makes up about 9 percent of the country's economy, while ruminant livestock contributes to a significant proportion of agricultural emissions.

The project, funded by the New Zealand Government and with technical assistance from the NZAGRC, is working on more accurate ways to measure these emissions by improving the GHG inventory for livestock. This shift from basic to more precise methods is instrumental for the Philippines to reach its climate goals, which include cutting GHG emissions by 75 percent by 2030, as part of its commitment to the Paris Agreement.

According to its embassy, New Zealand's investment in the Philippines for this program is more than NZ\$1.6 million, or about P55.4 million.

Focus of the visit was directed at the engagement with the Dairy Training and Research Institute and the Philippine Carabao Center. There, they met director Dr. Arnel Del Barrio, as well as DTRI project leaders Dr. Amado Angeles and Gerard Guadayo, plus PCC's Dr. Phoebe Llantada and Charity Castillo.

Discussions centered on the CSA project, as well as broader implications for livestock development and emission-mitigation strategies in the Philippines.

The delegation also toured the DTRI Farm, which featured the Headbox Respiration Facility pivotal in the development of a Tier-2 inventory for cattle emissions. The members also met with representatives from the Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture or SEARCA, as well as the International Rice Research Institute or IRRI.

Reflecting on the visit, McIntosh welcomed the project's progress and thanked the team for their dedication: "People are at the heart of this Initiative. Empowering people to engage and advocate for this initiative is key to its success."

McIntosh and the embassy's visit to UPLB represented a significant step in strengthening New Zealand's partnership with the Philippines, and reflected its ongoing commitment to supporting initiatives that address global challenges through innovation, collaboration and shared expertise, according to the embassy.

For more information, visit [climatesmartagriculture.org.nz](https://climatesmartagriculture.org.nz).

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/12/new-zealand-delegation-explores-climate-smart-agriculture-dairy-innovations-at-uplb/>