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MANILA BULLETIN:

Close to 8,000 pigs culled in Batangas due to ASF—DA

BY [JEL SANTOS](#)

Sep 16, 2024 04:40 PM



Nearly 8,000 pigs have been culled in Batangas since the deadly African Swine Fever (ASF) struck the province in August, an official of the Department of Agriculture (DA) disclosed on Monday, Sept. 16.

“[A total of] 7,900 hogs were already depopulated sa (in) Batangas [as of September 6],” Assistant Secretary Arnel De Mesa, the spokesperson of the DA, told the Manila Bulletin.

According to him, ASF has been detected in 96 barangays across Batangas.

De Mesa said they recently observed an upward trend in the number of barangays in the province reporting ASF cases.

“Base doon sa report ng BAI (Bureau of Animal and Industry), may mga bagong munisipyo na dagdag sa Batangas. So ‘yung mga bagong munisipyo ay Mabini, Nasugbu, Malbar, San Pascual, Balayan and Alitagtag (Based on the report from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), new municipalities have been added to the list of areas with ASF infections in Batangas. These municipalities include Mabini, Nasugbu, Malvar, San Pascual, Balayan, and Alitagtag),” he said.

As of September 6, the spokesperson of the agriculture department reported that a total of 472 barangays are currently experiencing active cases of ASF.

Meanwhile, the DA clarified that the six hogs inoculated with the ASF vaccine in Batangas died because of their preexisting conditions, not because of the vaccine.

“Anim ang namatay. Isa ay napilayan sa isang farm. Doon sa kabilang farm, lima ‘yung namatay, may sakit na, kumabaga may comorbidity. Mayroon pulmonary ailments that were not disclosed before the injections (Six died. One was crippled in a farm. In the other farm, five hogs died, they were already sick, and it seems they had comorbidity. There are pulmonary ailments that were not disclosed before the injections),” said De Mesa.

De Mesa said the result of the blood test of the pigs inoculated with the ASF vaccine will come out this week.

The test conducted by the agency seeks to find out if the ASF vaccine given to the hogs has effectively produced antibodies.

On Aug. 30, the DA started the vaccination of hogs against ASF in Lobo, Batangas.

The spokesperson said the agriculture department prioritized vaccinating small-hold and backyard hog-raisers in Batangas.

Earlier, the DA raised indemnification for diseased hogs surrendered for culling, raising the compensation ceiling to ₱12,000 for breeders from the previous maximum of ₱5,000.

The government has allocated ₱300 million to purchase 600,000 doses of the ASF vaccine from Vietnam.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/9/16/close-to-8-000-pigs-culled-in-batangas-due-to-asf-da>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Rice and a party



VIRTUAL REALITY - Tony Lopez - The Philippine Star

September 17, 2024 | 12:00am

Today, Tuesday, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the Manila Overseas Press Club has Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel as its guest of honor and speaker during the MOPCA Agriculture Forum at the Fairmont Hotel Ballroom in Makati.

The major conglomerates, businessmen and senior newsmen have booked tables for this first ever no-holds barred interaction with Secretary Francis, a high school dropout and a self-made deep-sea fishing billionaire.

Francis is expected to discuss: 1) the food crisis; 2) the Department of Agriculture's road map to agriculture modernization; 3) the coming boom in Philippine agriculture; 4) why our businessmen and foreign investors must invest in Philippine agriculture and 5) Philippine agriculture's vast potential.

About 25 percent of food demand cannot be met by local supply. There is supply abroad. You can buy it but at a high cost. And even if you have the money to pay for it, you are not guaranteed the seller wants to sell to you.

Take India, the world's largest rice exporter. It accounted for 40 percent of the global rice trade in 2022. In July 2023, India began restricting rice exports. It banned exports of white rice. Then it slapped a tax on parboiled rice exports in August 2023. It imposed a minimum export price for its basmati rice of \$1,200, later lowered to \$950 per ton. The consequence: the highest global rice prices in 15 years, according to the US Agriculture Department. Because India curbed rice exports, PM Narendra Modi became unpopular, having angered his farmers who began earning less. Modi suffered electoral losses in rural constituencies – proof that rice and politics do mix.

This year, India also curbed corn exports to Southeast Asia by 84 percent. Demand for rice and corn is rising globally. Yet, output is decreasing, for a number of reasons, including bad weather.

This year, the Philippines, per USDA forecast, will import more than 4.7 million tons of rice, up from 3.8 million tons in 2023. The Philippines is the world's biggest rice importer. At \$1,000 per ton, 4.7 million tons are worth \$4.7 billion. At \$500 per ton, 4.7 million tons are worth \$2.35 billion, which if multiplied by P57 is P134 billion.

For the same P134 billion you can irrigate 100,000 hectares which will yield one million tons of palay or 650,000 tons of rice. This implies that if we devote the money spent on rice imports to irrigating unirrigated rice fields, we can probably solve our rice shortage in less than seven years. This is on the irrigation side alone of the rice problem.

Add factors like higher yielding rice varieties, better fertilizer input, greater mechanization, more post-harvest facilities like driers and warehouses, more cash ayuda to farmers and yes, curbs on corruption, and you have a better chance of solving the rice crisis during the remaining years of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. A P20 per kilo doesn't look like a weird promise, after all.

On Sept. 13, 2024, his 67th birthday, President Marcos launched in Central Luzon the Agri-Puhunan at Pantawid (APP) program to increase the rice yield in 1.2 million hectares.

Funded initially with P3 billion, APP targets increasing farmers' productivity and income by providing them low-cost credit, financial assistance and a ready market for farmers' harvests, in areas near major irrigation systems like Upper Pampanga, Magat and the Cordillera.

A farmer with one hectare of rice land will receive P58,000, covering production costs – inputs, land preparation, hauling, including a subsistence allowance of P32,000 which will be given P8,000 monthly for four months, with crop insurance cover.

The APP proceeds will complement government subsidies for inputs, services and insurance totaling P14,500 per hectare. Per DA estimates, an APP farmer could net P65,000 per cropping, based on five tons per hectare yield, and after repaying the loan, interest and taxes. The amount includes a P32,000 subsistence allowance.

The National Food Authority (NFA) guarantees to buy the farmer's harvest. The farmer can sell his surplus harvest to other buyers.

“The APP is contract farming. It guarantees a decent higher income to the farmers while providing the government a stable supply of our staple food. It could reduce rice imports,” Tiu Laurel explains.

“We will provide our farmers money, including credit to farmers for seeds and other inputs, crop insurance, subsistence allowance until harvest and a ready market with the NFA and the Department of Social Welfare and Development for a predetermined volume and income,” says the DA chief.

Secretary Tiu Laurel says APP seeks to make farming more bankable, attract more and bigger investments, nurture a new generation of farmers by uplifting their living conditions and ensure national food security and sustainability in the Philippines.

The initiative, Tiu Laurel hopes, “will finally unlock the potential of agriculture which provides two out of every ten jobs in the Philippines but contributes less than ten percent to the gross domestic product. This will be a game changer.”

President Marcos Jr. spent a tiring day of his birthday interacting with farmers, giving them handouts, farm inputs, tractors and debt condonation papers.

By evening of Sept. 13, he motored to the Marriot Hotel Manila ballroom where First Lady Louise Araneta Marcos gave him a surprise birthday bash, among family, close friends, advisers and half a dozen leading tycoons. Duran, Duran brought the house down. Except for the aging performers, the party was spartan by the standards of a palace party. Food consisted of dumplings, chicken soup, tiny slices of pork and pan fried salmon, nuts and chocolates.

After a long day for the gut, BBM needed to refresh the soul, a little singing, a little dancing. A six-year presidency is a marathon, not a sprint. You need to recharge occasionally to finish the game.

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2024/09/17/2385769/rice-and-party>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA: Imported rice retail price drops by P3/K

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

September 17, 2024 | 12:00am



Workers unload sacks of rice from various provinces on September 9, 2024.

STAR / Ryan Baldemor

MANILA, Philippines — A ranking official of the Department of Agriculture (DA) yesterday reported a P3-per-kilo drop in the retail price of imported rice amid the implementation of Executive Order 62, which lowered tariff from 35 percent to only 15 percent.

In an interview with The STAR, Agriculture Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa yesterday claimed the cost of imported rice is now cheaper compared to the price of local rice.

“Regular milled rice is now cheaper by P3 per kilo, at least in the low range. On the high range, imported rice is cheaper by P1 (per kilo),” De Mesa said.

He also said that based on the DA monitoring in Metro Manila markets, the retail price of imported regular rice ranged between P42 and P50 per kilo, while that of local regular milled rice is from P45 to P51 per kilo.

“The (P42 to P45 imported) regular milled (rice) is available in Guadalupe (Makati City), La Huerta (Parañaque), Malabon, Muntinlupa and Taguig. These are imported,” De Mesa added.

Earlier, farmers’ group Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (SINAG) chairman Rosendo So said the government lost at least P5.2 billion in tariff collection amid the implementation of EO 62, adding that the 15-percent tariff on imported rice failed to bring down the retail prices of the staple.

President Marcos issued EO 62 to slash the 35-percent tariff on imported rice to 15 percent in an effort to bring down the cost of the staple in the country. The measure took effect on July 7.

So said the country’s imported rice from January 2024 to September 2024 totaled 3.1 million metric tons. “From July 4, rice imports of 2.3 million MT, we already imported 800,000 MT under the lower tariff. We already lost P5.2 billion in tariff collection.”

Stocks at 4-month low

Although the country’s rice stocks in August rose by 14 percent on an annual basis on the back of higher inventory recorded by commercial entities and the National Food Authority (NFA), nationwide stocks also fell to their lowest level in four months.

Latest Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) report showed that nationwide rice inventory, as of Aug. 1, rose by 14.4 percent to 1.867 million MT from 1.632 million MT recorded in the same period a year ago.

The PSA data also showed that the rice stocks in commercial entities and NFA expanded while the stocks held by households contracted on an annual basis.

“Month-on-month, the volume of rice stocks inventory recorded a decrement of 14.2 percent from the previous month’s inventory of 2.18 million MT,” the PSA said.

PSA said the commercial sector accounted for 62.4 percent of the country’s total rice stocks while households contributed 29.6 percent and NFA contributed 8.1 percent.

Rice inventory in commercial entities reached 1.165 million MT, about 23.3 percent higher than the 945,100 MT recorded last year.

NFA rice stocks nearly tripled during the reference period to 150,739 MT from 50,948 MT, based on PSA data.

Household rice stocks, meanwhile, contracted 13.3 percent year-on-year to 551,898 MT from 636,406 MT, according to the PSA.

“In comparison to the July 2024 rice stocks levels, decrements were noted from the households by 21.9 percent, as well as in the commercial sector by 12.0 percent... Rice stocks inventory from the NFA depositories increased by 2.4 percent,” the PSA said.

Meanwhile, Speaker Martin Romualdez urged the DA and other concerned agencies to expand the outlets for cheaper rice to make sure more Filipinos benefit from it.

Romualdez said DA should extend the reach of Kadiwa centers, which sell rice at only P29 per kilo, to allow more consumers to access cheap rice.

“Just like what the President said in his SONA, the success of the economy is nothing if this will not be felt by the people. Affordable rice is the goal of the President for each and every Filipino family,” Romualdez said during the recent launch of the Bagong Bayaning Magsasaka Rice program, a partnership between the National Irrigation Authority and irrigation association members.

He added the DA should set up Kadiwa centers in every market across the country to “better serve Filipino consumers.” — **Sheila Crisostomo, Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/09/17/2385809/da-imported-rice-retail-price-drops-p3k>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

5,000 more hogs to be vaccinated vs ASF

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

September 17, 2024 | 12:00am



A piggery farm worker begins disinfecting an empty pig pen after more than 10 pigs were infected by African swine fever (ASF) on August 20, 2024.

STAR / Ryan Baldemor

MANILA, Philippines — After inoculating 41 hogs in Lobo, Batangas, the Department of Agriculture (DA) is ready to vaccinate 5,000 more pigs as part of the controlled vaccination against African swine fever (ASF).

The DA said the number of depopulated pigs in Batangas has reached 7,900 since the ASF outbreaks started last month.

DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said the 5,000 hogs have undergone necessary procedures, including testing negative for ASF, which is among the conditions set for the vaccination program.

Aside from testing negative for ASF, the hogs must be healthy and the farm where the inoculation will be conducted must have good biosecurity.

De Mesa said the vaccines that would be used for the 5,000 pigs are part of the 10,000 doses of ASF vaccine that the government acquired through emergency procurement.

The number of barangays in Batangas with confirmed ASF cases increased to 96 from 80.

“Among the new municipalities that reported ASF cases were Alitagtag, Balayan, Mabini, Malvar, Nasugbu and San Pascual,” De Mesa said.

Latest data from the Bureau of Animal Industry also showed the number of barangays in the country affected by the virus has reached 472 from 458.

De Mesa said the procurement of 600,000 doses of ASF vaccine is expected to be completed by the middle of next month.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/09/17/2385880/5000-more-hogs-be-vaccinated-vs-asf>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

CALABARZON, Central Visayas workers get pay hike

[Mayen Jaymalin](#) - The Philippine Star

September 17, 2024 | 12:00am



The DOLE yesterday said the National Wages and Productivity Commission affirmed the new wage orders issued by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards (RTWPB) in Calabarzon and Central Visayas.

[Philstar.com](#) / File

MANILA, Philippines — Minimum wage earners in Calabarzon and Central Visayas will receive a higher take-home pay after the regional wage boards granted their requests for a salary increase, according to the Department of Labor and Employment.

The DOLE yesterday said the National Wages and Productivity Commission affirmed the new wage orders issued by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards (RTWPB) in Calabarzon and Central Visayas.

For workers in Calabarzon, the RTWPB granted an increase ranging from P21 to P75 per day, which will be given in two tranches effective Sept. 30 this year and April 2025.

Minimum wage earners in Central Visayas will receive an increase ranging from P33 to P43 per day effective Oct. 2.

‘Measly pay hikes’

Labor group Partido ng Lakas ng Masa (PLM) expressed dismay over what it described as “measly pay hikes” granted to workers in Calabarzon and Central Visayas.

Leody de Guzman of the PLM said the regional wage boards gave workers barya or loose coins.

“They treated the workers like beggars. They gave alms in tranches amid the increasing prices of basic commodities,” De Guzman said, adding that the RTWPBs should be abolished.

The DOLE said the Calabarzon wage board “re-categorized” the grouping of areas based on the income classification of local government units.

The board also simplified the wage structure into agriculture and non-agriculture sectors as well as retail establishments employing not more than 10 workers.

Upon full implementation of all tranches, the daily minimum wage rate will increase to P450 and P560 in the non-agriculture sector, P425 and P500 in the agriculture sector and P425 in retail and service establishments employing not more than 10 workers.

The RTWPB in Central Visayas maintained its area-based classification of classes A, B and C, with each class now having a single wage rate for both the agriculture and non-agriculture sectors.

The pay hike brings the daily minimum wage from P458 and P468 to P501 for Class A; P425 and P430 to P463 for B, and P415 and P420 to P453 for Class C.

The labor department said the new wage orders for workers in private establishments would translate to an increase of about seven to eight percent from the current minimum rates.

The orders are expected to directly benefit up to 1.2 million minimum wage earners in both regions.

The DOLE said up to 2.7 million workers earning above the minimum rate may indirectly benefit from the orders as a result of the wage distortion.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/09/17/2385882/calabarzon-central-visayas-workers-get-pay-hike>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

BOI investments soar to record high P 1.35T

Agency beats 2024 target, driven by renewable energy projects

By: [Alden M. Monzon](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 02:30 AM September 17, 2024



Photo from BOI/FACEBOOK

The Board of Investments (BOI) on Monday said it had approved a record high P1.35 trillion worth of investments from January to date, breaking its full-year tally last year with renewable energy sector projects driving the growth.

The BOI said it saw an 82-percent increase during the nine-month period compared with the P741.98 billion that was tallied during the comparable period in 2023.

“As we celebrate our 57th anniversary, we are more inspired with the strong show of confidence by local and foreign investors in the Philippines that has made it possible for BOI to hit the P1.3-trillion mark in investment approvals,” Trade Undersecretary and BOI Managing Head Ceferino Rodolfo said in a statement.

“This accomplishment highlights both our agency’s unwavering commitment to nurturing a thriving investment landscape and in harnessing our country’s potential to be the prime investment destination for smart and sustainable manufacturing and services,” he added.

Last year, total BOI approvals reached P1.26 trillion, the highest in its history. Investments registered under the BOI enjoy a wide range of incentives, including income tax holidays, a preferential tax rate on gross income, zero value-added taxes (VAT) rating, as well as tax- and duty-free importation of capital equipment, raw materials and supplies.

Real estate

The energy sector, mainly projects in renewable energy, continued to dominate the roster, with investments totaling P1.29 trillion, according to the Department of Trade and Industry’s lead investment promotion agency.

Other top sectors included real estate activities, which recorded P20.28 billion in investments, manufacturing with P12.13 billion; agriculture, forestry and fishing with P10.05 billion, and administrative and support service activities with P5.46 billion. Investments from local companies made up almost 75 percent of the total at P1.01 trillion, while the remaining P341.78 billion were from foreign companies, the BOI said.

Its investment approvals were at P729 billion in 2022, P655 billion in 2021, P1.02 trillion in 2020 and P1.14 trillion in 2019. INQ

<https://business.inquirer.net/480444/boi-investments-soar-to-record-high-p-1-35t>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Port snags could delay expected fall in rice prices

September 16, 2024 | 8:36 pm



REUTERS

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Monday that bottlenecks at Philippine ports have been delaying the unloading of rice imports, which are deemed vital in lowering the price of the staple and in turn keeping inflation in check.

“As of today, there’s only about 60,000 (metric tons) that have arrived, and we’re already at mid-September,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said at a briefing organized by the Makati Business Club.

He said the Philippines lacks specialized port facilities for agricultural goods arriving in the Philippines.

“The idea is to unload immediately when shipments arrive. I think boats now have been waiting for a week or two,” Mr. Laurel said, noting that such delays cost shippers at least \$7,000 per day, raising the cost of logistics and the prices that end-users pay.

“If we had the right number of agriports all over the country, the cost of feed, rice, fertilizer, and seed would go down,” he added.

He added that rice imports during the first half have been in volumes that allow the buildup of rice reserves.

“From January to June, almost 400,000 MT (per month on average) has entered... there’s an excess of about 80,000 MT a month for buffer stocking,” Mr. Laurel said.

He added that the logistics snags are likely to delay the expected drop in rice prices.

“I would expect that price should go down by mid-October based on the new shipments that have arrived,” Mr. Laurel said.

In June, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. signed Executive Order No. 62 which lowered the tariff on imported rice to 15% from 35% until 2028, citing the need to contain rice prices. The order took effect in July.

The DA has said that the lower tariffs on rice would lead to a P5 to P7 per kilogram drop in imported rice prices.

The average price of imported well-milled rice in Metro Manila markets was P51.45 per kilogram, while local well-milled rice was sold at P50.83 per kilo, according to DA price monitor reports for the Sept. 9-14 period.

— **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/09/16/621921/port-snags-could-delay-expected-fall-in-rice-prices/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

National rice inventory up 14% in early August

September 16, 2024 | 8:31 pm



Workers load sacks of flour in a delivery truck in Manila, July 11, 2022. — PHILIPPINE STAR/ MIGUEL DE GUZMAN

THE Philippine rice inventory rose to 1.87 million metric tons (MMT) in early August, up 14.4%, according to preliminary data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

“Of this month’s total rice stocks, 62.4% were held by the commercial sector, 29.6% by households, and 8.1% by National Food Authority (NFA) depositories,” the PSA said.

NFA and commercial warehouses grew their holdings, while household rice stocks fell during the period.

Rice held by commercial establishments amounted to 1.17 MMT, 23.3% higher from the 1.32 MMT a year prior.

The NFA’s reserves more than doubled to 150,700 MT.

Rice held by households declined 13.3% year on year to 551,900 MT.

Month on month, rice stocks fell 14.2% from July.

“Decrements were noted from the households (21.9%), as well as in the commercial sector (12%). The rice inventory in NFA depositories increased 2.4%,” it added. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/09/16/621955/national-rice-inventory-up-14-in-early-august/>

REMATE:

5 naturukang baboy namatay ‘di sa ASF vax kundi sa mga kumplikasyon

September 16, 2024 19:03



MANILA, Philippines – PAGLILINAW ng Department of Agriculture (DA) nitong Sabado (Setyembre 14) na ang pagkamatay ng limang baboy sa Lobo, Batangas na na-inoculate ng anti-African Swine Flu (ASF) vaccine ay dahil sa dati nang kondisyon nito.

“May namatay na lima [na baboy], pero because mayroon silang precondition na hindi sinabi doon sa nag-a-administer doon sa Lobo, sabi ni Assistant Secretary Arnel De Mesa, ang tagapagsalita ng DA, sa isang forum.

Ayon kay De Mesa, malusog na ngayon ang iba pang baboy na na- inoculate ng ASF vaccine.

“Normally kasi after 14 days nagkakaroon sila ng mga 40 to 50 percent noong antibodies and then after 28 to 30 days they will be develop 90 percent na ng antibodies (Normally, after 14 days, they develop about 40 to 50 percent of the antibodies , at pagkatapos pagkatapos ng 28 hanggang 30 araw, magkakaroon sila ng 90 porsiyento ng mga antibodies),” aniya.

Kaugnay nito sinabi ni De Mesa na ang katotohanan na ang unang grupo na nalantad sa ASF ay buhay pa at nasa mabuting kalusugan ay nagpapahiwatig na ang bakuna ay gumagana nang maayos sa ngayon.

Idinagdag niya na umaasa silang ang bakuna ay patuloy na magiging epektibo sa buong tatlong buwan na exposure period.

Bago ma- inoculate ng ASF vaccine, sinabi ng tagapagsalita ng DA na kailangan munang negatibo sa ASF ang mga baboy; pangalawa, dapat wala silang anumang karamdaman dahil dapat malusog ang mga baboy.

“Pangatlo, kailangan mayroong magandang biosecurity, at least doon sa backyards/small-hold farms natin, mayroong bakod man lang na hindi makakatawid ang anumang hayop o tao na pupunta kasi ASF is delikado rin na virus. So, iyon lang iyong mga condition namin; apparently iyong nauna nga we were not properly informed,” sabi niya.

Samantala, nauna nang ipinag-utos ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. ang Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) na palawigin ang controlled testing ng ASF vaccine sa mas maraming lugar sa Luzon, gayundin sa mga red zone sa Visayas at Mindanao.

Noong Agosto 30, sinimulan ng ahensya ang pagbabakuna sa mga baboy laban sa ASF sa Lobo, Batangas.

Inuna ng departamento ng agrikultura ang pagbabakuna sa mga small-hold at backyard hog-raisers sa Batangas, ani De Mesa. Itinaas ng DA ang indemnification para sa mga may sakit na baboy na sumuko para sa culling, itinaas ang compensation ceiling sa ₱12,000 para sa mga breeders mula sa dating maximum na ₱5,000.

Pinahintulutan ng gobyerno ang ₱300 milyon na bumili ng 600,000 dosis ng bakuna sa ASF mula sa Vietnam, kasama ang karagdagang ₱50 milyon para sa mga gastusin sa inoculation. (*Santi Celario*)

<https://remate.ph/5-naturukang-baboy-namatay-di-sa-asf-vax-kundi-sa-mga-kumplikasyon/>

REMATE:

Sapat na suplay ng pagkain ngayong ‘ber’ months ginarantiya ng DA

September 16, 2024 08:31



MANILA, Philippines- Kumpiyansa ang Department of Agriculture (DA) na may sapat na suplay ng holiday food staple, tulad ng sibuyas, karne ng baboy, manok, baka, at bigas, sa pagpasok ng bansa sa “ber” months.

Sa kanyang pahayag sa media forum sa Quezon City, sinabi ni DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa na hindi lamang mayroong sapat na suplay ng nasabing food items, kundi wasto rin umano ang presyo nito dahil sa pag-aangkat at masaganang harvest season ng mga sibuyas.

“Iyong in terms sa supply ay bumabalik na po ulit sa dati at nakaprograma na naman din iyong importation natin ng karneng baboy at karneng manok, kasama na iyong baka,” pahayag ng opisyal nitong Sabado.

“Iyong bigas, napakaganda rin ng ating supply both local and imported despite iyong mga nangyaring kalamidad mula El Niño at iyong mga sunud-sunod na bagyo,” dagdag niya.

Inilarawan ni De Mesa, tagapagsalita ng DA, ang presyo ng sibuyas sa kasalukuyan na “very fair” sa pagpalo ng presyo ng pulang sibuyas sa pagitan ng P75 at P120 kada kilo, habang ang puting sibuyas ay nasa pagitan ng P100 ay P120 kada kilo. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/sapat-na-suplay-ng-pagkain-ngayong-ber-months-ginarantiya-ng-da/>

MANILA STANDARD

Bataan farmers finish SM agri program

By Butch Gunio

September 16, 2024, 11:00 pm

A total of 108 farmers have completed the SM Foundation Inc.'s Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan (KSK) Sustainable Agriculture Program.

After 14 weeks of intensive training, they celebrated their graduation in a ceremony held at SM City Bataan on September 12.

During the event, the newly trained farmers showcased their business proposals, which included plans to become direct suppliers for SM's Sunday Market, wet markets, malls, and supermarkets.

Some graduates also expressed ambitions to work overseas or pursue careers as TESDA trainers, further extending their expertise in agriculture.

In addition to the graduation festivities, the participants were given a guided tour of SM Supermarket, where they gained valuable insights into the operations of large retail chains. They learned about quality control, packaging, and the supply chain processes required to deliver farm-fresh produce to grocery stores.

<https://manilastandard.net/lgu/314498250/bataan-farmers-finish-sm-agri-program.html>

MANILA STANDARD

Flourishing crops in the wet season make farmers in Laos self-sufficient



The Climate REAL project, implemented by FAO with financial support from the Korea International Cooperation Agency is teaching farmers techniques and offering tools to allow for successful farming in both the rainy and dry seasons. FAO/Bounmee Maokhamphiou

By FAO News
September 16, 2024, 6:45 pm

First of 2 parts

Deep in his heart, La Xayyavieng says he has “always known that agriculture is the lifeline for us to survive and to grow.”

The 46-year-old father of three has long harbored the wish for his children to be agents of change, bringing knowledge and experience back from neighboring Vietnam to the family’s land in Attapeu province in the southeast of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

But as things have turned out, La himself is already creating the change. He's increased the family's income by 160 percent in just one season, thanks to a bumper watermelon crop—and without needing to set foot outside his country.

The spectacular transformation has come after he was selected as one of the residents from his home village of Phok, in Saysettha District, to take part in a project called “Building Climate-Resilient and Eco-friendly Agriculture Systems and Livelihoods” (Climate REAL). The initiative is implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with financial support from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

For years, La's annual income was less than US\$1,350 (LAK 30 million)—barely enough to meet their basic needs.

Lack of access to technologies and knowledge limited La to traditional practices, relying for income on rain-fed rice farming. Getting by in the rainy season was always problematic. Growing vegetables was not an option as they would rot or wash away and the effort would be wasted.

But the FAO project opened up new perspectives, demonstrating that successful vegetable farming could happen in both the rainy and dry seasons.

It was during learning and knowledge exchange visits to other project areas in Savannakhet and Champasak Provinces further to the north, that La realized what the future could hold. “I knew from the bottom of my heart that greenhouses would work for me as soon as I saw them and understood what they were,” he explained.

Built with support from the project and the farmers themselves, greenhouses minimize damage caused by waterlogging or heavy rain. With this structure, La reported that he was able to earn nearly as much in just four months as he would previously earn in a whole year. FAO News

<https://manilastandard.net/spotlight/environmental-and-sustainability/314498158/flourishing-crops-in-the-wet-season-make-farmers-in-laos-self-sufficient.html>

DA sends rice, seedlings to Batanes

By Leander C. Domingo

September 17, 2024

TUGUEGARAO CITY — Due to the rice shortage in Batanes and in response to the request from its governor, the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 2 (DA-RFO2) has shipped 200 packs of rice weighing 5 kilograms each to the island province.

In a letter, Gov. Marilou Cayco requested DA-RFO2 Executive Director Rose Mary Aquino for assistance to augment their rice supply in Batanes.

Cayco said there was a rice shortage in the province due to the unavailability of commercial ships transporting supplies to the island due to Typhoon Enteng and the monsoon rains.

The governor also asked the National Food Authority (NFA) to provide at least 2,000 sacks of rice to be sold in Kadiwa outlets in the province.

Aquino said she had already discussed the issue during the recently held DA-RFO2 Management Committee meeting and the group agreed to provide 2,000 kilograms of rice assistance.

In addition, Aquino said 200 more packs of rice would be delivered soon to complete the assistance.

"We thank the Philippine Marines for the use of their vessel and members of the Agta tribe for their assistance in loading the said items," Aquino said.

Aquino said Batanes usually gets its rice supply from the NFA in the National Capital Region and is stored in the agency's warehouse in Basco town.

Aside from rice, Aquino said they also sent ready-to-plant seedlings of guyabano, jackfruit, santol, calamansi, sweet Abulug pomelo and 150 bottles of mushroom spawns for the Ivatans to grow.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/17/regions/da-sends-rice-seedlings-to-batanes/1971940>

National rice inventory 14.4% higher in August

By Janine Alexis Miguel

September 17, 2024

THE country's rice stocks totaled 1.87 million metric tons (MT) as of August 1, up 14.4 percent from 1.63 million MT last year, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said.

Month-on-month, however, the inventory was 14.2 percent lower than July's 2.18 million MT.

The national rice inventory covers both locally produced and imported rice. It represents the total volume of rice available within the country at a given period after subtracting demand from food consumption, waste and other factors.

Household stocks, meanwhile, totaled 551,900 MT, dropping 13.3 percent from the 636,410 MT logged a year earlier. Majority of the rice stocks were held by the commercial sector at 62.4 percent, followed by households at 29.6 percent, and the NFA at 8.1 percent.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has estimated that the country's rice inventory would reach 3.64 million MT by yearend, or 91 percent higher than last year's 1.9 million MT. The projected volume is equivalent to about 93 days of consumption. If accurate, this could be the country's highest inventory in almost 15 years, exceeding the 3.42 million MT in 2010.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/17/business/top-business/national-rice-inventory-144-higher-in-august/1971903>

Port congestion hampering rice price drop

September 17, 2024

PORT congestion is hampering the further decrease in rice prices, notwithstanding tariff cuts on imports of the staple, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said on Monday.

Despite tax reductions in early August, the price of rice has not fully gone down due to ongoing delays in unloading and logistics, Tiu Laurel pointed out, noting that a ship carrying around 10,000 MT of rice would pay \$7,000 per day of stay in the port.

"There's no shortage, but [the slow pace of unloading might cause] the price of rice not to go down that soon," Tiu Laurel said in a media briefing by the Makati Business Club.

Citing data from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), the agriculture chief said rice arrivals surged from 100,000 metric tons (MT) in June to more than 380,000 MT in August.

However, monthly consumption requirements stand at about 320,000 MT, the small excess kept for buffer stocking.

The Department of Agriculture's (DA) price monitoring report showed imported well-milled rice averaged P51.45 per kilo and regular milled rice at P46.74 per kilo.

Tiu Laurel said that as of mid-September, only 60,000 MT of rice had entered the country due to congestion at major ports, including Bataan,

Subic, Manila and Batangas, where shipments are still waiting to be unloaded.

Nonetheless, Tiu Laurel is confident retail prices will decrease even more by mid-October as the shipments are processed.

In 2023, inbound shipments of the staple totaled 3.6 million MT, down 5.9 percent from the record-high 3.82 million MT in 2022. For 2024, the DA projects rice imports not exceeding last year's import volume.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) said the Philippines could import less rice this year due to a purchase slowdown in the global market.

In its monthly report, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service projected the Philippines' rice import volume to reach 4.6 million MT for 2024, a bit smaller than its previous projection of 4.7 million MT.

However, the Philippines still ranked as the world's top rice importer. Vietnam followed with an estimated 2.9 million MT, and the European Union with 2.2 million MT.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/17/business/top-business/port-congestion-hampering-rice-price-drop/1971901>

Port congestion holding up rice shipments— DA chief

Ada Pelonia
September 17, 2024



Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

PORT congestion is holding up rice shipments, and because of such delay, local consumers may have to wait longer for cheaper rice prices, agriculture officials indicated on Monday.

Rice arrivals in August reached 361,724.20 metric tons (MT), based on figures from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI).

Imports started to pick up after shipments in July slowed to 167,403.84 MT following the implementation of Executive Order (EO) 62, which lowered the tariffs to 15 percent and took effect on July 7.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. explained that the country's monthly consumption of imported rice was 320,000 metric tons (MT). With average shipments from the first semester at nearly 400,000 MT, he noted that there would be excess of about 80,000 MT.

“We still have old stocks [bought] at [higher] price to sell. I would expect that price should go down by mid-October based on the shipments that have arrived,” Laurel told reporters at a press conference organized by the Makati Business Club on Monday.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/17/port-congestion-holding-up-rice-shipments-da-chief/>

PHL rice retail prices still high in August— FAO

Ada Pelonia
September 17, 2024

THE Philippines's retail rice prices remained elevated in August due to El Niño and high world prices, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

This, despite the international agency recording a slight decline in retail prices of regular and well-milled rice in the reference period.

“In the Philippines, retail prices of regular and well-milled rice declined slightly in August, reflecting improved precipitation amounts that boosted production prospects for the 2024 main paddy crop, which is expected be harvested from September,” the FAO said in its latest report.

“However, prices remain at about 16 percent higher year-on-year, following sharp increases registered between February 2023 and April 2024, in the context of increases in international prices and concerns over the effect of dry weather conditions on the 2023/24 paddy crop.”

The FAO said wholesale rice prices increased for the second consecutive month in August in Vietnam.

“[This is] mostly due to strong international demand and an increase in gasoline prices which increased transport costs,” it said.

The FAO also noted that wholesale rice prices in Thailand declined in the reference period, “reflecting above-average supplies from the 2023/24 harvest and favorable prospects for the 2024 main season, which will be harvested from October onwards.”

According to the international agency, India also recorded a reduction in its national average retail price of rice in August, though prices were slightly higher year-on-year.

For Myanmar, the FAO said retail prices of the “widely consumed” Emata rice rose sharply in the reference period and reached near-record levels.

It added that this reflected tightening seasonal availability ahead of the 2024 main harvest that is expected to start in October.

“High production and transport costs exacerbated price increases [in Myanmar],” the FAO said.

Meanwhile, the international agency noted that export rice prices increased in Vietnam in the reference period.

“Prices increased in Vietnam, as strong sales to Indonesia and the Philippines offset downward pressure exerted by harvest progress,” it said.

“On the other hand, lackluster demand kept quotations of Thai 100 percent B white rice prices close to their July level, despite an appreciation of the baht against the United States dollar.”

Data from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) showed that imported rice that arrived in the Philippines reached nearly 3 million metric tons (MMT) as of September 5.

Figures from the attached agency of the Department of Agriculture (DA) indicated that total imports from January 1 to September 5 reached 2.9 MMT.

Over 2.26 MMT of rice shipments came from Vietnam, which maintained the top spot as the country’s source of imported rice. This was followed by Thailand, which accounted for 383,230.74 metric tons (MT).

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/17/phl-rice-retail-prices-still-high-in-august-fao/>