

CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

A. MANILA BULLETIN:

DA backs P1.2-B agriculture projects in Northern Samar for funding

Davao region inflation slows down, but not Davao City's

Hog raisers, livestock feed millers press government to expedite ASF vaccination

B. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA to bid out 17 port projects

Hog raisers warn of pork price spike

Philippine native carabao, riverine buffalo 'distinct species,' says Filipino scientists

DA expects full impact of lower rice tariffs in January

C. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Rice prices expected to drop by October due to tariff cuts – DA

Gov't seeks ₱40.5-B investment in 17 ports

Sweden grows vegetables in supermarkets using AI and hydroponics

Food summit: A vision for food security

D. BUSINESS WORLD:

UK meat trade seen improving after Philippines lifts poultry import ban

Port projects for landing farm goods under study

E. REMATE:

7 bayan sa Isabela inatake ng ASF

18 sa 41 baboy na naturukan ng ASF vax nakabuo ng antibodies; 7 patay!

F. THE MANILA TIMES:

Searca, SciDev.Net to advance science comms

Pamplona farmers get P10-M assistance

Firm offers financing for farm machines

Coconut coir processing a profitable venture

G. BUSINESS MIRROR:

DA eyes auction of ports for ships bearing farm goods

Big drop in rice prices once tariff cuts take hold-DA

Senate okay of FTA with South Korea expected soon

Traders buying palay at lower prices-group

UP-PCC study seen improving buffalo breeding program

‘Adherence to biosecurity measures crucial to fighting ASF’

EU degraded-forest ban favors PHL coconut oil exports

H. PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:

Bagsak presyo ng bigas, mararamdaman sa Enero

MANILA BULLETIN:

DA backs P1.2-B agriculture projects in Northern Samar for funding

BY [MARIE TONETTE MARTICIO](#)

Sep 18, 2024 07:29 PM

TACLOBAN CITY – The Department of Agriculture has endorsed funding for P1.2-billion worth of agricultural development projects in Northern Samar.



These projects aim to boost the province’s agricultural sector and promote food security and were identified under the Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Modernization Roadmap, the Provincial Rice Industry Development Plan (PRIDP), and the Collaborative Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Extension Program (CPAFEP).

These include the construction of farm-to-market roads in the municipalities of Mondragon, Laoang, and Las Navas.

Gov. Edwin Ongchuan, who sought funding for the project proposals, believes these will significantly benefit the agriculture sector by improving transportation and distribution of agricultural products, leading to increased farmer profitability and development.

These projects are also vital in complementing existing resources and projects of the provincial government, he added.

“They will play a crucial role in enhancing agriculture, promoting food security, and fostering resilience in Northern Samar,” Ongchuan said.

Meanwhile, the governor sought support for rice farm mechanization, the establishment of solar-powered irrigation and fertigation systems, cold storage facilities for fruits, vegetables, and seafood, and the construction of a feed mill.

https://mb.com.ph/2024/9/18/da-backs-p1-2-b-agriculture-projects-in-northern-samar-for-funding#google_vignette

MANILA BULLETIN:

Davao region inflation slows down, but not Davao City's

BY [ANTONIO COLINA IV](#)

Sep 18, 2024 04:11 PM

DAVAO CITY – The inflation in the five provinces of Davao region – Davao Oriental, Davao del Sur, Davao Occidental, Davao del Norte, and Davao de Oro – slowed down in August, except for this city.

Maria Leah C. Magracia, officer-in-charge of the Statistical Operation and Coordination Division of the Philippine Statistics Authority-Davao, said Davao City's inflation accelerated to five percent last month from 4.4 percent in July.

She said the rest of the province experienced decelerating inflation, with Davao Oriental posting a 6.8 percent inflation in August from 7.4 percent in July; Davao del Sur, six percent from 6.4 percent; Davao Occidental, 4.8 percent from 5.6 percent; Davao del Norte, 3.8 percent from 4.7 percent, and Davao de Oro, 2.6 percent from 4.4 percent.

Magracia added that the inflation rate in the Davao region decelerated to 4.1 percent in August, one percent lower than the 5.1 percent in July.

From January to August, she said that the average consumer price index was estimated at 4.8 percent.

She attributed the decrease to the slower movement in the prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages to 6.6 percent in August from 7.8 percent in July.

Magracia said prices of cereals and cereal products moved at a slower rate at 15 percent in August from 17.3 percent in July; vegetables, tubers, and cooking bananas, seven percent in August from 14.8 percent in July; and fish and other seafood, -0.6 percent in August from one percent in July.



She also attributed lower inflation to transportation, which declined to -1.1 percent from four percent in July, owing to decreasing cost of gasoline (-7.6 percent from 5.3 percent), diesel (-12.4 percent from 6.7 percent), and passenger transport by sea (-26.4 percent from 19 percent).

Magracia added that alcoholic and tobacco slowed down to five percent in August from 7.8 percent in July; clothing and footwear (five percent from 5.3 percent); furnishings, household equipment, and routine household maintenance, 4.5 percent from 4.8 percent; health, 3.3 percent from 3.8 percent; recreation, sport, and culture, 5.1 percent from 5.2 percent; education services, 7.9 percent from 9.8 percent; restaurants and accommodation services, 6.5 percent from 6.6 percent; and personal care, miscellaneous goods, and services, 3.9 percent from 4.7 percent.

She said that housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels posted a higher inflation at 4.3 percent in August from -0.2 percent in July, while financial services remained the same at 0.1 percent.

The top five contributors to the August inflation were rice at 20.4 percent; restaurants, cafe, and the like at 6.4 percent; electricity at 9.7 percent; rentals at 2.5 percent; and other passenger transport by road at 4.2 percent.

Davao Agri Trade Expo

The Davao Agri Trade Expo 2024 kicks off here on Thursday, September 19.

Paolo Claudio, event chairperson, said that the expo with the theme “Agriculture 4.0: Transforming Agribusiness in the Digital Age” will be held until September 21 at the SMX Convention Center.

Organizers are expecting around 10,000 visitors in the three-day expo that will feature innovative technologies and practices that seek to enhance agriculture and increase production.

The biggest and longest-running agriculture trade event in Southern Mindanao will highlight precision and smart agriculture, big data analytics, blockchain technology, AI and machine learning, robotics and automation in farming, and climate-smart agriculture.

“We want to harness the power of technology to be efficient... We want the agriculture to be sexy again, so we also encourage the youth to go back to agriculture. Agriculture is getting sexier because there is no way other than people eating food. You need volume,” Claudio said.

He said that the region needs agriculture for its continued growth as the demand for agriculture is consistently growing.

“As you all know, Davao region is growing. Our agricultural needs are growing. These kinds of interests are growing,” he said, referring to the focus on the region’s agricultural industry.

The expo will have technical seminars, business matching sessions, conferences, and 78 booths for exhibitors.

He said that participants in the expo include, among others, farmers, technology providers, researchers, policymakers, investors, exporters, and representatives of various foreign groups such as India, Germany, and Denmark.

During the expo, speakers from the regional offices of Department of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Trade and Industry, and Department of Tourism will provide the outlook and trends for Davao region from the public sector perspective.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/9/18/davao-region-inflation-slows-down-but-not-davao-city-s>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Hog raisers, livestock feed millers press government to expedite ASF vaccination

BY [AARON RECUENCO](#)

Sep 18, 2024 09:42 AM

Hog raisers and livestock feed millers in Calabarzon are urging the national government to expedite the African Swine Fever (ASF) vaccination process amid the anticipated high demand for pork during the Holiday season.

Rico Geron, chief executive officer of the Batangas-based Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative, said the national government should tap the private sector in the inoculation process, especially that both hog raisers and livestock feed millers are already feeling the adverse effects of the ASF.

For the cooperative alone, Geron said they have around 73,000 farmers, half of them are engaged in backyard hog-raising, who are affected by the ASF.

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“We are offering ourselves to help to make the inoculation process swifter, as hogs continue to deplete in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) due to ASF. Not only that, feed millers are losing 50 percent of their revenues because of the depletion of pigs in the farm and the backyards,” said Geron in a press briefing.

Geron explained that there is an urgency to finish the ASF vaccination in the soonest possible time amid the expected demand for pork.

“We are anticipating that pork meat prices will increase in the coming weeks toward the Holiday Season if the rolling out of the ASF vaccine inoculation process will not be done faster. We ask the Department of Agriculture and the President to tap us and receive our being offered help in this process,” said Geron.

On the part of the Cavite Farmers Feedmilling and Marketing Cooperative, its general manager Alice Maraan said their main concern is where to get the vaccines.

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“If our members who are into backyard hog-raising are affected by the ASF, feed millers also suffer. What we want is for the government to double-time the vaccination process,” Maraan said. The national government, through the DA, earlier ordered 10,000 ASF vaccines from Vietnam. The vaccination was already started in Batangas after the first batch of the vaccines arrived last month.

But Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines, Inc. representative Fritz Kenneth Chua, who also owns a livestock farm in Quezon, said the vaccination appears to be taking a lot of time.

“The vaccine is readily available and yet the rollout is so sluggish. What is happening?” he asked. In the same press briefing, AGAP Partylist Representative Nick Briones criticized the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for being the one who hinders the total rollout of the inoculation process

“They have so many tests to do. The problem is already here, so why are they not acting fast? Lives of our hogs and swine are at stake here, as well as the livelihood of our industry,” he said.

As of last week, the ASF has affected 209 municipalities across the country. Only the vaccine from Vietnam has been approved by the FDA for a limited government-controlled rollout of 10,000 that was allocated in Batangas.

DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel earlier said that the government-controlled vaccination against African swine fever (ASF) will be expanded to the Visayas and Mindanao as soon as more ASF vaccines arrive.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/9/18/hog-raisers-livestock-feed-millers-press-government-to-expedite-asf-vaccination>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA to bid out 17 port projects

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

September 19, 2024 | 12:00am



Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. on November 6, 2023.

STAR / Jesse Bustos

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) is set to bid out over P40 billion worth of port projects nationwide as part of measures to reduce retail food prices by slashing transport costs through efficient logistics system.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the agency would bid 17 port projects, 10 of which being big ones capable of accommodating Panamax vessels.

A Panamax vessel has a capacity of about 60,000 to 80,000 deadweight metric tons or about 4,500 20-foot containers.

The 10 big ports would cost P3 billion each while the other seven would be about P1.5 billion each for a total of P40.5 billion, Tiu Laurel said.

The agriculture chief explained that the country lacks ports to efficiently transport farm inputs to key producing provinces, thus, resulting in higher logistics costs and delays in much-needed materials.

Some of the prospective sites for the proposed port projects are Mindoro, Negros, Iloilo, Southern Albay, Southern Batangas, among others.

Tiu Laurel said the establishment of new ports could slash feed and fertilizer costs by as much as 15 percent since most of these inputs are imported.

“We make a proposal to the public and hopefully there will be bidders or there will be unsolicited proposals. In sites that there will be no interested parties then the government would look for the fund to undertake the project,” he said.

“Because if other people are interested to risk (in the projects) then let use other people’s money,” he added.

Tiu Laurel estimates that three out of the 10 Panamax size port projects could be the most attractive ones for private sector investment.

The agriculture chief also called on the private sector to bid and invest in the prospective new port projects of the government to reduce the country’s food cost.

“That is why I’m asking the help of Makati Business Club and other groups to lobby. If possible, private sector would also build agricultural port,” he said.

“If we have the right number of agricultural ports all over the country, the cost of rice, fertilizer and seeds would go down,” Tiu Laurel added.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/09/19/2386226/da-bid-out-17-port-projects>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Hog raisers warn of pork price spike

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

September 19, 2024 | 12:00am



Feed millers in Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon are losing substantial sales revenue as hogs continue to die because of ASF, according to Batangas Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative chief executive officer Rico Geron.

Manan Vatsyayana / AFP

MANILA, Philippines — Hog raisers' groups yesterday warned of a spike in the retail prices of pork in the coming weeks with the expected increase in demand during the holiday season if the pace of the vaccination program against African swine fever (ASF) remains slow.

Feed millers in Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon are losing substantial sales revenue as hogs continue to die because of ASF, according to Batangas Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative chief executive officer Rico Geron.

“We are anticipating that pork meat prices will increase in the coming weeks toward the holiday season if the rolling out of the ASF vaccine inoculation process is not done faster,” Geron added.

Meanwhile, Cavite Farmers Feedmilling and Marketing Cooperative general manager Alice Maraan complained that her group does not know where to get the vaccine against ASF.

“If our members who are into backyard hog-raising are affected by the ASF, feed millers also suffer. What we want is for the government to doubly speed up the vaccination process,” Maraan said.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) started the vaccination of hogs in Lobo, Batangas, ground zero of the ASF outbreaks on Aug. 30.

Since then, only 41 hogs were inoculated against ASF and six piglets died because of pulmonary diseases.

AGAP party-list Rep. Nick Briones said during the Senate hearing last week that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has delayed the rollout of the inoculation process because the agency needed the vaccine to undergo clinical testing to obtain a Certificate of Product Registration.

FDA director general Samuel Zacate has said there are four vaccines for ASF undergoing local clinical trials.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has maintained that the DA is working to expedite the approval of vaccines for ASF, which he said could take six months “in the best-case scenario.”

Briones noted that based on records of the BAI as of Sept. 6, pigs from 14 regions, 31 provinces, 109 municipalities and 472 barangays have been hit by ASF.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/09/19/2386389/hog-raisers-warn-pork-price-spike>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Philippine native carabao, riverine buffalo 'distinct species,' says Filipino scientists

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

September 18, 2024 | 5:13pm



A Philippine native carabao dam and her calf grazing in Pitogo Island, Bohol.

Lilian Villamor via UPD-CS IB

MANILA, Philippines — Filipino scientists discovered in their recent studies that the two subspecies of domesticated water buffaloes in the Philippines are distinct species.

Traditionally, the country has classified swamp buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis carabensis*) and riverine buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis bubalis*) as two subspecies of domesticated buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*).

A species is a group of organisms that share common characteristics and genetic structure that can interbreed among themselves. A subspecies is identified when there are organisms of the same species with distinct characteristics or traits, such as having a different color or behavior.

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Researchers from the University of the Philippines Diliman - College of Science's Institute of Biology (UPD-CSC IB) and the Department of Agriculture - Philippines

Carabao Center (DA-PCC) determined that the swamp buffalo has a unique DNA sequence of genes compared to riverine buffaloes.

They also found each to have a different number of chromosomes. The swamp buffalo, which is more commonly known as the Philippine native carabao, only has 48 chromosomes, while the riverine buffalo has 50.

As a result, the team of researchers is proposing to rename the swamp buffalo from *Bubalu bubalis carabensis* to *Bubalus kerabau*, since it is distinct from domesticated buffaloes. This is in line with Austrian zoologist Leopold Joseph Fitzinger's classification of the swamp buffalo in 1860.

“The reclassification of the *Bubalus bubalis carabanensis* to *Bubalus kerabau* Fitzinger, 1860 supports earlier assumptions that riverine and swamp buffaloes are distinct,” UP biology professor Ian Kendrich Fontanilla said.

Since species are essential in the conservation of ecosystems, researchers emphasize that consistently examining species in the country will help in determining effective breeding strategies to avoid biodiversity loss.

“Confusions on the classifications of the two buffaloes have implications on the breeding program of these species,” Fontilla added.

Difference between swamp and riverine buffaloes

Besides the distinct chromosome count, one can distinguish a swamp buffalo from a riverine buffalo based on its physical or morphological characteristics.

According to the researchers, the lower jaws (or chevron) of swamp buffaloes have either white or light gray markings. They are smaller in size and lighter than riverine buffaloes, weighing only around 350 to 450 kilograms. Another unique physical attribute is its crescent-shaped horns.



A Philippine native carabao dam and her calf grazing in Pitogo Island, Bohol.

Lilian P. Villamor via UPD-CS IB

Meanwhile, riverine buffaloes are larger and weigh more than 450 kilograms, sometimes even up to 1,000 kgs. They also have curly horns as opposed to swamp buffaloes.



A riverine buffalo.

Therese Patrickka C. Cailipan and Sonny C. Ramos via UPD-CS IB

These two distinct species can also be differentiated based on their purpose.

Swamp buffaloes are normally used as draught animals, which means they are animals that help cultivate farms and transport tools and produce. They are only used as an alternative for meat, milk, hide and manure for organic fertilizer.

As for riverine buffaloes, this is not their primary role. Instead, they are traditionally used in milk and meat production.

Next steps. The team of researchers said that they plan to study the chromosomes of crossbred buffaloes since their current study is only limited to those of swamp and riverine buffaloes.

Continued research will help “guide conservation and management efforts,” they said.

The UPD-CS IB and DA-PCC have published their research entitled, “Molecular Data and Karyotype Revealed Two Distinct Species of Domesticated Water Buffaloes in the Philippines,” in the Philippine Journal of Science.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/climate-and-environment/2024/09/18/2386213/philippine-native-carabao-riverine-buffalo-distinct-species-says-filipino-scientists>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA expects full impact of lower rice tariffs in January

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

September 19, 2024 | 12:00am



Photos show workers unloading sacks of rice from a truck along Dagupan St. in Manila on February 7, 2024.

STAR / Ernie Penaredondo

MANILA, Philippines — Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. yesterday moved the expected full impact of Executive Order (EO) 62 on lower tariff on imported rice to January 2025 from October 2024.

“Since demand for food usually spikes in December, we anticipate seeing a more substantial drop in rice prices by January,” he said.

He assured the public that the benefits of EO 62 will be felt starting October 2024 as the importers still have many stocks in the warehouses before the effectivity of the EO on July 7.

Economic managers have vowed that EO 62 will result in a P7 per kilo drop in the cost of rice.

EO 62 lowers the tariff on imported rice from the previous rate of 35 percent to 15 percent.

Tiu Laurel explained that the expected decline in rice prices has not yet fully materialized because traders ramped up rice imports in anticipation of a supply shortage caused by El Niño.

He said between December 2023 to May 2024, rice importation averaged 422,000 metric tons per month, exceeding consumption by 102,000 MT per month.

This resulted in an excess of approximately 612,000 MT of imported rice at the higher 35 percent tariff, enough to cover nearly two months of consumption, he said.

He added that prior to the tariff reduction, rice imports decreased to around 176,000 MT per month in June and July.

“It wasn’t until August that we saw a significant increase in import volumes to 385,000 metric tons,” Tiu Laurel said.

He revealed that the soaring global price of rice has pressured traders to purchase palay from local farmers at elevated prices of up to P30 per kilo.

“With current palay prices now ranging between P23 and P25 per kilo, a similar reduction in rice prices in the market could be forthcoming. Given the wet season, some areas are seeing palay being bought at P16 to P17 per kilo. We need to monitor this closely to ensure farmers are not shortchanged,” he added.

He explained that global rice prices remain high due to robust demand from Malaysia and Indonesia, which has been exacerbated by Thailand and Vietnam’s attempts to push prices higher.

“Fortunately, Myanmar has reduced their prices, which has somewhat eased the pressure on rice prices,” he said.

Tiu Laurel said with India yet to lift restrictions imposed last year on the export of non-basmati white rice, parboiled rice and broken rice, chances of a significant reduction in global rice prices are low.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/09/19/2386367/da-expects-full-impact-lower-rice-tariffs-january>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Rice prices expected to drop by October due to tariff cuts – DA

By: [Dianne Sampang](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:20 PM September 18, 2024

MANILA, Philippines — The price of rice is expected to start declining by October due to the reduction of import tariffs, the Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said on Wednesday.

Tiu Laurel however noted that the full impact of the price decline due to tariff cuts may be felt by January 2025. The agriculture secretary said that it has not yet fully materialized since rice traders bulked up on imports to anticipate a rice supply shortage due to El Niño.

“Since demand for food usually spikes in December, we anticipate seeing a more substantial drop in rice prices by January,” Tiu Laurel said in a statement.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed Executive Order (EO) No. 62 in June, implementing a tariff cut from 35 percent to 15 percent on rice and other agricultural products.

Marcos said in the EO that “[t]he implementation of an updated comprehensive tariff schedule aims to augment supply, manage prices, and temper inflationary pressure of various commodities, consistent with the Philippine national interest and the objective of safeguarding the purchasing power of Filipinos.”

However, agricultural groups previously filed a petition asking the Supreme Court to nullify the EO, saying that it was hastily done without proper consultation and investigation. The petitioners said lowering the tariffs “can lead to an influx of cheaper imported goods, undermining domestic producers’ and farmers’ sales and products.”

Meanwhile, the DA secretary said it was not until August that there had been a significant increase in import volumes to 385,000 metric tons (MT). The US Department of Agriculture said in a report that the rice import for 2024 will be at 4.6 MT, slashed by 100,000 MT, due to the “slowing purchases” of Vietnam, the country’s top source for imported rice.

The department also said that “[g]lobal rice prices remain high due to robust demand from Malaysia and Indonesia, which has been exacerbated by Thailand and Vietnam’s attempts to push prices higher.”

The secretary also noted that farmers should not be “shortchanged” due to the wet season where the price of palay can be bought at a lower price when the current price is pegged between P23 and P25 per kilo.

“Given the wet season, some areas are seeing palay being bought at PHP16 to PHP 17 per kilo. We need to monitor this closely to ensure farmers are not shortchanged,” Tiu Laurel added.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1984629/rice-prices-expected-to-drop-by-october-due-to-tariff-cuts-da>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Gov't seeks ₱40.5-B investment in 17 ports

By: [Alden M. Monzon](#), [Jordeene B. Lagare](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 02:22 AM September 19, 2024

The Department of Agriculture (DA) plans to develop 17 strategic new ports and bring in private investors to defray the estimated cumulative cost of P40.5 billion as it hopes to lower food prices across the country.

“We will come [up] with a proposal to the public for the available sites. Hopefully, there will be bidders or unsolicited proposals,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said on the sidelines of an event organized by the Manila Overseas Press Club in Makati City.

Of the proposed new sites, 10 will be big ports while seven will be small facilities.

He also said they are targeting to complete these ports within the term of the Marcos administration. Potential locations include Mindoro, Negros, Iloilo, Southern Albay and Southern Batangas.

Tiu Laurel estimated the cost of putting up 10 big ports at P30 billion or P3 billion each, while the small ports are seen to cost a total of P10.5 billion or P1.5 billion each.

“Actually, it is easy to develop these ports as long as we have enough funds (translated from Filipino),” he told reporters.

“If anyone is interested in assuming the risk of building ports for the government, then let’s use other people’s money,” he added.

Tiu Laurel said if necessary, the government may allocate a budget to develop port projects that fail to attract private sector interest.

The agriculture chief said having more ports may lower the cost of fertilizer and corn by 5 percent, and meat by 10 to 15 percent.

Taming inflation

Earlier, Tiu Laurel urged the private sector to establish more ports to help the government bring down food prices.

“There’s a lack of ports in the country; that’s why the food cost in our country is very high and that’s why I’m asking the help of Makati Business Club and other groups to lobby,” Tiu Laurel said during the Makati Business Club’s Agriculture and Food Security Summit 2024 in Taguig.

China Bank Capital Corp. managing director Juan Paolo Colet said building more ports is a step in the right direction, as those would facilitate the movement of agricultural goods and lower the cost of bringing products from farm to market.

“This should be part of a more comprehensive plan to channel public and private investments in supply chain logistics and infrastructure, including roads and post-harvest storage and processing facilities,” Colet told the Inquirer in a Viber message.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. chief economist Michael Ricafort said having more ports would help improve the local supply chains for agricultural products, as well as ease the flow of goods for exports and imports.

“This would also speed up intervention and other non-monetary measures of the government to bring down prices, especially to benefit from lower world prices of food and other agricultural products and overall inflation, especially in tackling weather-related challenges,” Ricafort said.

<https://business.inquirer.net/480797/govt-seeks-%E2%82%B140-5-b-investment-in-17-ports>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Sweden grows vegetables in supermarkets using AI and hydroponics

By: [Dale Arasa](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:41 AM September 19, 2024



Swedish startup SweGreen grows vegetables in supermarkets using artificial intelligence and hydroponics – a soilless agricultural method that uses rock wool plugs and a continuous water flow to grow produce. Free stock photo from Pexels

Swedish startup SweGreen grows vegetables in supermarkets using artificial intelligence and hydroponics – a soilless agricultural method that uses rock wool plugs and a continuous water flow to grow produce.

SweGreen's proprietary AI guides store workers in growing the right vegetables based on multiple factors.

As a result, this agricultural tech company lets customers gain a higher appreciation for their groceries as they see the store grow them in-house.

How does the AI hydroponics chain work?



Euronews reports that SweGreen developed this eco-friendly food production solution to answer water shortages, the lack of agricultural land, and global geopolitical issues.

It is active in supermarket chains in Sweden and Germany, providing greens while reducing transport emissions, prolonging shelf life, and improving taste.

As mentioned, these establishments use hydroponics platforms to grow three hectares worth of food. Even better, they let customers see staff grow and harvest their veggies, ensuring they're "farm-fresh."

Euronews says SweGreen can grow 100 different crop varieties, such as dill, mint, parsley, and lettuce.

"Supermarkets have bakeries, for example. But now they're growing food instead of baking," says the chief innovation officer and head of SweGreen X, Sepehr Mousavi.

Mousavi said his company plans to expand its hydroponics selection to include fruit-bearing plants like strawberries.

The startup also developed an AI tool that guides staff into growing the ideal crops based on various factors. These include seasonal crop demand, consumer preferences, and plant growth times.

"We have an AI tool that gives the recipe of growth to our growers so that the people who work in the supermarket get a to-do list that secures them with exactly those products needed on that day," Mousavi explained.

Supermarkets using SweGreen may also choose 45-meter-squared crops with a daily 300-crop capacity. Moreover, they could opt for a smaller 12 m² platform that can grow 116 vegetables daily.

Restaurants, universities, hotels, and property owners are also exploring ways to use SweGreen. It also won numerous awards, such as the IKANO Sustainability Award in 2023.

<https://technology.inquirer.net/137179/sweden-grows-vegetables-in-supermarkets-using-ai-and-hydroponics>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Food summit: A vision for food security

By: [Manolito "Lito" Tayag](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 04:40 AM September 19, 2024



The graphic features a blue background with a white central box. In the top left of the white box is a blue circle containing a white quote icon. In the top right is the 'INQUIRER OPINION' logo. The main text is in bold black font. Below the text is the author's name 'Manolito "Lito" Tayag', his title 'Columnist', and the category 'BUSINESS MATTERS'. At the bottom, there is a blue bar with the text 'READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE:' and logos for 'PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER' and 'INQUIRERPLUS' with a subtitle 'Philippine Daily Inquirer newspaper's E-reader and digital version'.

Food security is not just about increasing production; it is about making food affordable and accessible to all Filipinos ... In the summit, based on the organizations' core business, they made definitive commitment to any of the working groups in collaborating, sharing of expertise, and pooling of resources toward a more secure and prosperous future for all.

Manolito "Lito" Tayag
Columnist
BUSINESS MATTERS

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Business leaders are calling for collaboration to address food inflation and the slow growth of the agriculture sector in the Philippines, which has seen an average annual growth rate of a little more than 1 percent over the past decade. With food inflation coming to 6.7 percent in July, the urgency for action is more pressing than ever.

The private sector is ready to accept the challenge and do its part as the Makati Business Club (MBC) recently had its first Food and Agriculture Summit. The summit brought together business leaders to address the critical issues of food security and agricultural sustainability in the Philippines. Our vision is clear: engage and commit Philippine

business to create a modern, sustainable agricultural value chain that boosts productivity and ensures fair profit distribution for the farmers.

Food security is not just about increasing production; it is about making food affordable and accessible to all Filipinos. The private sector, the Philippine government, and cooperative enterprises must work together to lower food prices, improve the value and yield of our crops, and uplift the lives of the farmers. From an economic standpoint, imagine the impact if we can bring up the growth rate of the agriculture sector from less than 2 percent today to our average economic growth rate of more than 6 percent. Not only will that increase further the country's economic progress but it will also accelerate poverty reduction.

The summit focused on several key initiatives aimed at achieving these goals. Our approach involves the formation of working groups focused on agriculture production and value chain by empowering cooperatives, supporting the adoption of agriculture technology, and improving logistics and food distribution. These groups are tasked with identifying pain points and developing solutions at every step of the agriculture life cycle.

The working group on Agricultural Productivity: Empowering Cooperatives, led by Dr. Jaime Aristotle Alip, aims to professionalize cooperatives and provide farmers with the business education and mentorship they need to succeed. It has often been said that the size of our farm does not provide for economies of scale and necessary investment. The summit underscored that strong and professionally run cooperatives bring the scale. This project will match cooperatives with MBC's membership to encourage large businesses to partner with, invest in, strengthen governance of, and source directly from cooperatives. During the summit, memorandums of understanding were signed with Jollibee Foundation, Card MRI, and Agrea that highlight working models of collaboration.

Agriculture technology is a significant focus of the summit. This working group, led by Dickie Buhain, looks at how we can integrate modern technology with farming practices to significantly enhance productivity and drive efficiency. From farm mechanization to connectivity and digitalization to the use of artificial intelligence, investment in and adoption of rapid technology advancements can bring our farming to the 21st century. In the summit, several case studies and success stories are discussed how they can be implemented at scale.

Logistics and food distribution are key enablers to food security. Improving farm-to-market roads and building more cold storage facilities are essential steps in ensuring that food reaches consumers in the best possible condition at the most reasonable price. The working group led by Doris Ho looks at how innovative solutions —like 7-Eleven and Card MRI’s backhauling project—can help make transporting produce more efficient and allow farmers to reach more markets. Partnerships between private sector companies and cooperatives, along with public-private partnerships, are highlighted as a viable solution to address logistical synergies.

In the summit, based on the organizations’ core business, they made definitive commitment to any of the working groups in collaborating, sharing of expertise, and pooling of resources toward a more secure and prosperous future for all.

The MBC’s commitment to food security extends beyond the summit itself. Our ongoing advocacy efforts aim to create a sustainable and resilient food system for the country.

Through MBC’s partnership with Kain Tayo Pilipinas as a member of the private sector coalition, we help bring about a future where no Filipino goes hungry. But this requires the collective effort of all sectors to create a system that is fair, sustainable, and resilient. After all, food security is a shared responsibility, and it is every one’s business.

MBC held its inaugural Food and Agriculture Summit: “Food is Everyone’s Business” on Sept. 16, 2024.

Manolito “Lito” Tayag is a trustee of Makati Business Club. He served as the country managing director of Accenture Philippines for more than 12 years.

Business Matters is a project of the Makati Business Club (makatibusinessclub@mbc.com.ph)

<https://opinion.inquirer.net/176926/food-summit-a-vision-for-food-security>

BUSINESS WORLD:

UK meat trade seen improving after Philippines lifts poultry import ban

September 18, 2024 | 8:59 pm



REUTERS

THE resumption of poultry imports from the UK could boost meat shipments from that country if the produce is well-priced, an importers' group said.

“Theoretically, it will result in more purchases from the UK. But it depends how competitive they will be,” Meat Importers and Traders Association President Emeritus Jesus C. Cham told reporters late Tuesday.

Last month, the Department of Agriculture issued Memorandum Order No. 34, which lifted the temporary ban on imports of domestic and wild birds and their by-products from the UK.

“They have to find their niche, because the problem with the UK is that their main market is the European Union and (its) domestic market, which pay better prices than what we are willing to pay,” Mr. Cham added.

British Ambassador to the Philippines Laure Beaufils said that the UK and the Philippines recently signed a regionalization agreement outlining what the trading partners will do in case of animal disease outbreaks in the UK.

Under the agreement, only areas in the UK which have reported bird flu cases will be barred from exporting to the Philippines, with those outside of the active zones not affected by any bans.

“That’s the whole idea of regionalization. So even where there may be a region where there’s avian flu, that will not detract from the ability of other regions to export. So the flow can be steady again which is ultimately what importers want here as well,” Ms. Beaufils told reporters.

The agreement ensures that trade with disease-free areas of the UK remain uninterrupted.

The Philippines banned imports of UK poultry and its by-products in 2021 due to an outbreak of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

“We’ve lost three years sadly, so I think importers and traders have first and foremost to get reacquainted with the UK market, with UK suppliers, and recognize the opportunity that is presented to them,” Ms. Beaufils said.
— **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/09/18/622493/uk-meat-trade-seen-improving-after-philippines-lifts-poultry-import-ban/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Port projects for landing farm goods under study

September 18, 2024 | 9:01 pm



PHILSTAR FILE PHOTO

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said it is looking to tap private-sector partners to develop port facilities specialized in handling agricultural shipments.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said the DA's aim is to bring about the more efficient movement of farm goods, which may require such shipments to bypass the Philippines' congested major ports.

"We will come up with a proposal... on available sites," Mr. Laurel told reporters, adding that he hopes to attract bidders or unsolicited proposals.

He added that the DA is planning to identify 17 candidate sites, estimating the potential cost at about P40.5 billion.

He said 10 main sites are estimated to cost P3 billion each, with the remaining seven expected to cost about P1.5 billion each.

"For the areas where no one is interested, then we will need to raise funding for that," Mr. Laurel added.

He said that if the private sectors interested in assuming the risk of building port facilities for the government, “then let’s use other people’s money.”

The candidate sites include locations in Mindoro, Negros, Iloilo, southern Albay, and Batangas, he said.

The rerouting of goods to such ports, he said, have the potential to bring down fertilizer costs by 5%, corn by 5%, and feed for hogs by 10-15%.

Mr. Laurel has said that delays at the ports could foil government plans to bring down inflation via lower rice import tariffs.

“If we have the right number of agri-ports all over the country, the cost will go down, the price of rice, fertilizer, seed will go down. We really need the ports,” he said in a briefing earlier this week. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/09/18/622495/port-projects-for-landing-farm-goods-under-study/>

REMATE:

7 bayan sa Isabela inatake ng ASF

September 18, 2024 09:56



SAN GUILLERMO, Isabela – Umabot na sa pitong bayan na sa lalawigan ng Isabela ang inatake at apektado ng African Swine Fever (ASF) na isang uri ng sakit ng baboy.

Ayon kay Dra. Belina Barboza, ang Provincial Veterinary Officer ng Isabela, ang mga lugar na nakapagtala ng ASF ay kinabibilangan ng mga bayan ng Angadanan, Cordon, Echague, Gamu, San Guillermo, San Manuel at bayan ng Quezon dito sa nasabing probinsya.

Sa datos, pinakamarami ang tinamaan ng ASF sa bayan ng Angadanan na may 253 piraso ng baboy na namatay kabilang na ang mga ibinaon sa lupa na mula sa 13 na Barangay.

Sumunod sa bayan ng San Guillermo na mayroong 94 na tinamaan ng ASF, 29 sa bayan ng Echague, 25 sa Quezon at apat (4) sa bayan ng Cordon.

Sa kabuuan, umabot sa 426 na piraso ng baboy ang naitalang natamaan ng ASF at naisailalim sa culling sa Isabela.

Sa pagsisiyasat naman ng PVET, posibleng kumalat ang sakit ng baboy sa probinsya dahil sa hindi pagsunod ng mga may-ari o nagpapakain ng baboy sa biosecurity measures.

Habang ang iba naman ay dahil sa pagsasagawa ng artificial insemination sa mga inahing baboy at dahil sa kabuhayan na pagtitinda ng karne.

Payo naman ni Dra. Barboza, dapat ay hiwalay ang ginagamit na tsinelas sa babuyan at sa labas ng bahay at huwag bumili ng karne ng baboy sa kung saan-saan.

Panatilihin din anya ang malinis na kulungan ng baboy at kung maaari ay iisang tao lamang ang nagpapakain sa mga alaga para maiwasang makapitan ng ASF.

Samantala, hindi naman makakaapekto sa supply ng baboy dahil kaya pa umanong supplayan ang pangangailangan ng probinsya hanggang sa huling buwan ng taong kasalukuyan. **Rey Velasco**

<https://remate.ph/7-bayan-sa-isabela-inatake-ng-asf/>

REMATE:

18 sa 41 baboy na naturukan ng ASF vax nakabuo ng antibodies; 7 patay!

September 18, 2024 08:42



MANILA – Iniulat ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang isang “positibong” development kung saan 18 sa 41 hogs na nabakunahan laban sa African swine fever (ASF) sa dalawang backyard farm sa Lobo, Batangas ang nakabuo ng antibodies kontra sa nasabing sakit.

Sa isang radio interview, sinabi ni DA Assistant Secretary for Swine and Poultry Constante Palabrica na ang pinakahuling resulta ng blood sampling ay nagpakita ng pagbuo ng hindi bababa sa 40 porsiyentong antibodies sa 18 hogs mula noong unang pagbabakuna na kinokontrol ng gobyerno gamit ang AVAC live na bakuna mula sa Vietnam.

“Para bang nakakita ako ng light at the end of the tunnel. Bata pa lang siya, 14 days pa lang siya. Pero the mere fact na nag-react siya at nag-produce siya ng antibody, imbes na zero antibody, ibig sabihin pinagana noong ibinakuna natin noong a-trenta after 14 days na halos kalahating baboy na binakunahan at nag-react at nag-produce. ng antibody,” sabi ni Palabrica.

Sinabi pa ni Palabrica na ang pag-unlad ay preliminary pa rin at ang mga nabakunahang baboy ay inaasahang magkakaroon ng 90 porsiyentong antibodies sa susunod na 14 na araw.

“It makes me more positive na itong programang ito ng gobyerno ay makakatulong sa laban sa ASF,” dagdag niya.

Pitong nasawi sa kabuuan, gayunpaman, ang naiulat sa dalawang sakahan, habang ang iba pang natitirang baboy ay nanatiling malusog at nasa ilalim ng malapit na pagmamasid.

Nagpahayag din ng optimismo si DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. tungkol sa pangmatagalang epekto ng programa ng pagbabakuna sa pagtulong sa industriya ng baboy na makabangon.

“Ang mga unang resultang ito ay bahagi ng mas malawak na pagsisikap na protektahan ang ating populasyon ng baboy. Nananatili kaming umaasa, ngunit ang kooperasyon ng lahat ng stakeholder ay mahalaga. Ang mahigpit na pagsunod sa mga protocol ng pagbabakuna at mga hakbang sa biosecurity ay mahalaga,” aniya. *RNT*

<https://remate.ph/18-sa-41-baboy-na-naturukan-ng-asf-vax-nakabuo-ng-antibodies-7-patay/>

THE MANILA TIMES

Searca, SciDev.Net to advance science comms

By [Leander C. Domingo](#)
September 19, 2024

THE Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca) and SciDev.Net have forged a five-year agreement to advance science communication for agriculture development.

SciDev.Net is the world's leading source of reliable and authoritative news, views and analysis on science and technology for global development. CAB International is the parent organization of SciDev.Net.

Signatories to the agreement are Searca Center Director Glenn Gregorio and SciDev.Net managing editor Ben Deighton with Joselito Florendo, Searca deputy director for administration, and Joel Adriano, SciDev.Net regional coordinator, as witnesses.



Searca Director Glenn Gregorio (left) and SciDev.Net regional coordinator Joel Adriano wrap up a meeting on potential joint projects to build capacities in communicating the latest scientific research and technology with a wider audience. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gregorio said on Monday that the partnership aims to strengthen science and technology communication in agriculture, environment and health across Southeast Asia.

"The agreement marks a milestone in Searca's efforts to drive agricultural innovation, including the area of sustainable and carbon-wise farming practices, through effective science communication," he said.

Gregorio also noted that SciDev.Net has been at the forefront of "delivering reliable and accessible science and technology news, making complex topics understandable for policymakers, scientists and the general public."

He said Searca and SciDev.Net will work together on initiatives to advance education on writing about science. "These efforts are intended to enhance public understanding of agricultural science and technology, which supports sustainable development, and regional and global food security goals."

"Through this partnership with SciDev.Net, we are amplifying the reach of critical agricultural research and technology to broader audiences so that our efforts toward sustainable development have a far-reaching impact," Gregorio added.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/19/business/agribusiness/searca-scidevnet-to-advance-science-comms/1972525>

Pamplona farmers get P10-M assistance

By [Leander C. Domingo](#)

September 19, 2024

TO boost the livelihood of more than 400 coconut farmers in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley), the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 2 (DA-RFO2) distributed P10 million worth of agricultural inputs in the town of Pamplona in Cagayan province on September 12.

Jovyjane Ganat of the DA-RFO2 Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section said the distribution under the department's High Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP) was in celebration of the third year implementation of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP).

During the event, Ganat said key activities included the ceremonial planting of cacao and coffee trees under coconut trees in Barangay Allasitan in Pamplona.

Also conducted were the formal launch of the CFIDP in the area, the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the DA, the local government, and farmers cooperatives and associations, technical briefings and the turnover of various agricultural inputs.

Thanking the DA for choosing Pamplona as a CFIDP beneficiary, Mayor Digna Puzon-Antonio also encouraged the farmers to "take good care of the provided resources to increase your productivity and income."

"We are lucky to be one of those chosen and be given free equipment. This is a big help to increase the income of every coconut farmer here in Pamplona," Puzon-Antonio said.

The recipients of the agricultural inputs included the Pata West Small Water Irrigators System Association that received P1.2 million worth of coffee seedlings, fertilizers, pesticides, green nets, water drums, plastic soil augers and brush cutters.

The Cabaleng-San Isidro Farmers Association, Tappa Atta Tribal Association and Gonzaga Coconut Farmer Association received similar packages with the amount ranging from P714,985 to P1.74 million.

Also, the Balingit Farmers Association received cacao seedlings and farm inputs for their Coconut-Cacao Intercropping Project while other groups like the Casitan Small Water Irrigators System Association and the Pamplona Coconut Farmers Association received cacao seedlings and related materials, with each package valued at P714,985.

In her virtual message, DA-HVCDP Undersecretary Cheryl Marie Natividad-Caballero explained the objective of the program is to "enhance the livelihood of coconut, coffee and cacao farmers by improving agricultural practices and production."

"These interventions the DA is distributing are to improve your farming and increase production," Natividad-Caballero said.

Also during the event, DA-HVCDP and National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture focal person Carol Albay provided an overview of CFIDP and reminded the beneficiaries of their responsibility to properly manage the assistance or interventions they received.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/19/business/agribusiness/pamplona-farmers-get-p10-m-assistance/1972524>

Firm offers financing for farm machines

By The Manila Times

September 19, 2024

FARM equipment supplier All Certified Equipment Trading Corp. (ACETC) has launched a financing program to enable farmers, and agribusiness cooperatives and companies to acquire the equipment they need and have been dreaming of through flexible terms.

Bhong Amoroso, ACETC vice president and general manager, said the company's financing program provides a term of 36 to 60 months, with no collateral required.

"We also offer flexible terms and low interest for farmers to allow agribusiness cooperatives and companies to acquire their choice of agricultural equipment, ranging from tractors to milling and drying equipment," he said.



All Certified Equipment Trading Corp. is offering financing for farm equipment like the Massey Ferguson 2600 series.
PHOTO FROM ACETC

"ACETC's financing program also covers generators of various brands and equipment for sugarcane farming," Amoroso added.

The following products are covered by ACETC's financing program: Massey-Ferguson 1600, 2600, 6700, Global at 290 series; GT Mobile Dryer, Megasun Dryer, at Ice Green Cold Storage; Yanmar, AOSIF and Kaiao generators; Platinum portable generator set; Menta Forage Chopper, KUHN Feed Mixer; SIP Manure Spreader; Max Cane Loader; KK Sugar Planter; and Sugar Grabber.

Amoroso said that investing in agricultural equipment through financing can be a wise decision as the brands products under ACETC's wings are reputable and can last for many years given the right maintenance.

"This means that after a client completes, for example, the maximum payment period of 60 months or five years, the equipment he paid for can serve him for decades, especially with proper maintenance," he said.

"Also, we at ACETC only select equipment that are best suited for the Philippines' challenging tropical conditions, like extreme heat and heavy rains, because one of our major considerations is the equipment we provide will benefit their clients for many years and decades," Amoroso said.

Of equal importance is ACETC provides quality after-sales and spare parts for all the products it distributed in the country, ensuring these will provide many years of service to its users.

Also, ACETC has 12 strategically located branches nationwide, allowing its service experts to provide quality after-sales and spare parts.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/19/business/agribusiness/firm-offers-financing-for-farm-machines/1972523>

Scientists confirm 2 domesticated buffalo species

By Conrad M. Cariño
September 19, 2024

FILIPINO scientists have confirmed two species of domesticated buffaloes (*Bubalus bubalis*) that have traditionally been classified into two subspecies: swamp buffaloes and riverine buffaloes.

However, the recent study of the scientists provides evidence that these two are not subspecies but are instead distinct from each other.

The study, titled "Molecular Data and Karyotype Revealed Two Distinct Species of Domesticated Water Buffaloes in the Philippines," offers valuable insights into the diversity of domesticated buffaloes and can guide conservation and management efforts, particularly in developing potential hybrids with desired traits. It was published in the Philippine Journal of Science.



A riverine buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis* Linnaeus, 1758). contributed photo

Swamp buffaloes (*Bubalus bubalis carabanensis*) are primarily used to assist farmers with tilling the land, transporting tools, and, alternatively, for meat, milk, hide and manure, which is used as organic fertilizer. On the other hand, Riverine buffaloes (*Bubalus bubalis bubalis*) are mainly used in milk production. In the Philippines, crossbreeding and backcrossing these two breeds on a large scale helps create animals with improved potential for milk and meat production despite their differences. Hybridization of swamp and river buffaloes has limited success, sometimes producing viable offspring that don't achieve the desired traits.

"A team of researchers conducted an investigation to clarify the taxonomic designation of swamp and riverine buffaloes in the Philippines. They discovered that the DNA sequences of the genes from both swamp and riverine buffaloes are distinguishable, and that their chromosome numbers are different, affirming that they are two distinct species, not just subspecies of *Bubalus bubalis*," the University of the Philippines-Diliman College of Science said.

The research team is composed of Ian Kendrick, Nelvie Fatima Jane Soliven, John Gregor Roño, Francis Fontanilla, Emerson Servo and Ernelea Cao of the UP-Diliman College of Science's Institute of Biology, and Lilian Villamor, Therese Patrickka Cailipan, Alexander Paraguas and Aivhie Jhoy Cuanang from the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center.

"These results corroborate the observed differences in their appearances. Swamp buffaloes can be identified by the white or light gray markings on their lower jaw and brisket, known as a chevron, as well as their lighter skin and coat color compared to riverine buffaloes. They are also smaller, weighing between 325 and 450 kilograms, and have crescent-shaped horns. They are mainly used as draught animals," said Villamor, citing data from her previous studies on buffaloes. "River buffaloes, on the other hand, are larger, weighing between 450 and

1,000 kilograms, and have curly horns. They are primarily raised for milk and meat production."

According to the team, the Philippine native carabao, which is currently classified as *Bubalus bubalis carabanensis*, should be now considered as *Bubalus kerabau* Fitzinger, 1860. "The reclassification of the *Bubalus bubalis carabanensis* to *Bubalus kerabau* Fitzinger, 1860 supports earlier assumptions that riverine and swamp buffaloes are distinct," added Fontanilla. "Confusions on the classifications of the two buffaloes have implications on the breeding program of these species."

As their study was limited to examining the chromosomes of only swamp and riverine buffaloes, the researchers plan to include chromosomes from crossbred buffaloes in future studies to gain new insights into how these different types of buffaloes are genetically related and potentially improve the classification of the *Bubalus bubalis*.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/19/business/agribusiness/scientists-confirm-2-domesticated-buffalo-species/1972522>

THE MANILA TIMES

Coconut coir processing a profitable venture

By The Manila Times
September 19, 2024

PROCESSING coconut husks into coir or geonet is a profitable venture, according to the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech).

The agency recently awarded to a coconut-based farmers' group in Placer, Surigao del Norte, first completed shared processing facility (SPF) the SPF component of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP).

"And with geonet and coco peat having a big demand, PHilMech pegged the internal rate of return for the facility at 171.74 percent. Hence, the project is expected to generate a return of P10.30 for every peso investment made with a payback period of 0.61 year or less than a year," PHilMech said.



A worker inspects coco coir produced by a processing facility awarded to a farmers' group in Surigao del Norte by the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization. PHOTO FROM PHILMECH

"In this case, the relatively short payback period suggests the project can generate sufficient cash flows to cover its initial investment within a reasonable time frame," it added.

Turned over to the Mabini United Farmers Cooperative is a facility worth P5.17 million, established on land owned by the group that has 127 members who are all coconut farmers.

PHilMech Director Dionisio Alwindia said the turnover of the facility is a milestone for both the agency and members of the Mabini United Farmers, as the SPF is the very first in the Philippines to be completed under the CFIDP.

"Today or September 11 is a historic day for both PHilMech and the Mabini United Farmers Cooperative, as the coconut farmers in this town of Placer in Surigao del Norte are the recipient of the very first SPF to be completed by the agency under the CFIDP," he said.

"Through the P5.17-million facility, the Department of Agriculture, the Philippine Coconut Authority, and we at PHilMech are contributing to the continued fight of the people of Surigao del Norte against poverty," he said.

Alwindia said that once production commences, the facility will also reduce the volume of coconut husks that are mostly discarded as farm waste.

The facility will require 5,000 coconut husks per production run, each purchased at P0.50 from coconut farmers, as input. Coconut husks are usually thrown away as waste or used to produce charcoal.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/19/business/agribusiness/coconut-coir-processing-a-profitable-venture/1972520>

DA eyes auction of ports for ships bearing farm goods

Ada Pelonia
September 19, 2024



Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) plans to auction off the construction of ports that will primarily serve vessels carrying agricultural products.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the estimated cost for the development of 17 ports in the country is P40.5 billion.

“For the [10] big ports, our estimate is P3 billion each. For the smaller ones [...] seven ports at P1.5 billion,” Laurel told reporters on the sidelines of an agricultural forum in Makati City on Tuesday.

The agriculture chief added that the government would release a proposal to the public for the available sites, with prospective areas of the ports set to be built in Mindoro, Negros, Iloilo, Southern Albay, and Batangas, among others.

“Hopefully there will be bidders or unsolicited proposals. Kung saan walang interesado then kailangan natin kunan ng pondo for that [For those ones for which there are no interested proponents, we have to get funding],” he said.

Laurel also noted that the ports could lower input prices.

“For fertilizer cost alone, I think that’s 5 percent less right away, for corn 5 percent less, for feed cost for swine maybe up to 10 percent to 15 percent [less],” he said.

The country relies heavily on imports to meet its demand for various fertilizer grades. Citing data from the Bureau of Customs (BOC), the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department (CPBRD) said imports accounted for almost 87 percent of the fertilizer used by the Philippines in 2021 to 2023.

Last year, the think tank said the country imported a total of 2.54 million metric tons (MMT) of fertilizer products, mostly from China. Of the volume, more than half consisted of nitrogenous types like urea.

Deep-water ports

THE DA has been pushing for the construction of deep piers designed for large ships to reduce the cost of transporting farm inputs like fertilizers. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/04/08/da-deep-piers-for-large-ships-will-cut-cost-of-logistics-inputs/>)

The agency said this could lead to a reduction in rice production cost and help planters boost their output.

“Our primary focus remains on elevating production levels and lowering production costs in rice cultivation, primarily through mechanization and reducing postharvest losses, as emphasized by Secretary [Francisco] Tiu Laurel,” Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel De Mesa earlier said.

De Mesa noted that the establishment of deep piers capable of accommodating larger vessels could significantly reduce transportation costs by enabling direct shipment, potentially lowering input prices by P15 to P20 per unit.

In April, the DA created a technical working group (TWG) that will develop policies pertaining to the development and operation of deep-water ports. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/04/18/da-begins-effort-to-develop-deep-water-ports/>)

In developing a policy framework for the development and operation of deep-water ports, Laurel said the TWG will be guided by the objective that the ports will lead to efficient cargo handling and distribution, reduced postharvest losses, enhanced fish ports, and provision of efficient logistic systems for both input and output production.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/19/da-eyes-auction-of-ports-for-ships-bearing-farm-goods/>

Big drop in rice prices once tariff cuts take hold—DA

Ada Pelonia
September 18, 2024

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) expects a significant drop in rice prices by January as the full impact of the reduction in rice tariffs takes hold.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. earlier signed Executive Order (EO) 62, which reduced the tariff on rice to 15 percent from 35 percent and took effect in July.

The move aims to lower the cost of rice, the country's main food staple that has significantly contributed to high inflation rates due to its substantial weight in the consumer price basket.

Economic managers estimated that the tariff reduction could lead rice prices to decline by around P5 to P7 per kilo.

“But since demand for food usually spikes in December, we anticipate seeing a more substantial drop in rice prices by January,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said in a statement.

The agriculture chief explained that the expected decline in rice prices has not yet fully materialized because traders ramped up rice imports in anticipation of a supply shortage caused by El Niño.

According to the department, between December 2023 and May 2024, rice importation averaged 422,000 metric tons (MT) per month, exceeding consumption by 102,000 MT per month.

The DA said this resulted in an excess of approximately 612,000 MT of imported rice at the higher 35-percent tariff, enough to cover nearly two months of consumption.

Ahead of the tariff reduction, rice imports decreased to around 176,000 MT per month in June and July.

“It wasn’t until August that we saw a significant increase in import volumes to 385,000 metric tons,” Laurel said.

In addition to high import tariffs, the department noted that the soaring global price of rice has pressured traders to purchase palay from local farmers at elevated prices of up to P30 per kilo. With current palay prices ranging between P23 and P25 per kilo, the DA said a similar reduction in rice prices in the market could be anticipated.

“Given the wet season, some areas are seeing palay being bought at P16 to P17 per kilo. We need to monitor this closely to ensure farmers are not shortchanged,” he added.

It noted that global rice prices remain high due to robust demand from Malaysia and Indonesia, which has been exacerbated by Thailand and Vietnam’s attempts to push prices higher.

“Fortunately, Myanmar has reduced their prices, which has somewhat eased the pressure on rice prices,” Laurel said.

With India yet to lift restrictions imposed last year on the export of non-basmati white rice, parboiled rice, and broken rice, the DA chief said chances of a significant reduction in global rice prices are low.

The department also said that freight costs have begun to decline this month after rising by as much as \$30 per MT in June and July.

“As the situation evolves, the Department of Agriculture continues to monitor market conditions to ensure that the benefits of tariff reduction are fully realized and that both consumers and farmers are fairly treated.”

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/18/big-drop-in-rice-prices-once-tariff-cuts-take-hold-da/>

Senate okay of FTA with South Korea expected soon

Butch Fernandez and Andrea E. San Juan
September 18, 2024



File photo: A lady banana trader in the upland village of Tucod, Cabarroguis, Quirino, classifies freshly harvested bananas according to sizes. Hillside banana farmers keep a sustainable supply of the upland crop delivered to local markets in neighboring provinces up north. The rest go to Metro Manila.

THE Senate inched closer to concurrence in the ratification of the Philippines' Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with South Korea, a step that paves the way for expanded access for Philippine exports to one of Asia's largest economies.

The chief sponsor, Senator Imee Marcos told Senate Minority Leader Koko Pimentel that implementing the FTA with South Korea "will provide market access for key Philippine agricultural products," and will "complement" the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The FTA's "economic and technical provisions will hopefully allow for more Korean investments in our country," said Marcos, the chairperson of the Senate Foreign Relations committee, during Pimentel's plenary interpellation.

The Korean president will be visiting Manila in October, she noted, and this is why "we are all so excited with this FTA."

One important beneficiary of an FTA will be the local banana industry, which, Marcos noted, had drastically declined the past several years, as certain neighbors took a chunk of the Philippine share in Korea's banana market.

"We used to have stranglehold almost of the Korean market for bananas," Marcos said, but this had declined from over 97 percent to 68 percent.

"To stem the further decline, it's important that we enter upon this FTA; after all, it's the third best market for Philippine bananas...Let's put 700,000 banana farmers and families on the road to recovery for entire industry," the senator stressed.

Earlier, the DTI said around 740,000 Filipinos employed in the banana industry could be affected if the Philippines fails to capture the \$280-million market share of bananas in South Korea.

"In terms of jobs if you will look at the banana industry alone we're protecting here 744,000 jobs in that particular industry covering both directly employed, indirectly employed," DTI Undersecretary Allan B. Gepty said at a Senate hearing recently.

"So you can just imagine if they will lose the market share in South Korea which is equivalent to \$280 million, what's the impact of that? That alone is huge," Gepty added.

The Trade undersecretary said the Philippines' market share of bananas in South Korea plunged from 98-99 percent to 69 percent while Vietnam's market share of bananas in South Korea went up to 15 percent from zero.

He explained that once the free trade deal with South Korea takes effect, Philippine bananas would have to wait five years before enjoying zero tariffs in the South Korean market.

For his part, Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PBGEA) and Dole Philippines consultant Melquiades L. Hernandez said that the tariffs with South Korea has been one of the issues hounding the Philippine banana industry.

“If we are not able to finalize this FTA with Korea, we are very afraid that we will lose entirely the Korean market which is our third biggest market next to China and Japan,” Hernandez said.

Butch Fernandez; with earlier report by Andrea San Juan

Image credits: [Ceazar Perante](#)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/18/senate-okay-of-fta-with-south-korea-expected-soon/>

Traders buying palay at lower prices—group

BusinessMirror
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Traders are purchasing unmilled rice at lower prices due to an anticipated supply glut during the peak harvest months of October and November, according to the Federation of Free Farmers (FFF).

FFF said it received reports from reports from Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Mindoro Occidental, Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato that farmgate prices have fallen to a range of P21 to P23 per kilo. In some parts of Nueva Ecija, the country's rice granary, traders are buying palay at P16.50 per kilo.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed that the average farmgate price of unmilled rice in the second quarter reached P24.54 per kg.

“Traders are afraid that the fresh harvests will coincide with the arrival of cheap imports, resulting in oversupply. So, they play safe by buying low from farmers,” FFF National Manager Raul Montemayor said in a statement.

The group also expressed concern that the National Food Authority (NFA) may not be able to intervene in case farmgate prices drop further.

“The agency's funds were depleted by heavy procurement during the previous season when it raised its buying price to P29 per kilo,” it said. “Also, almost 95 percent of farmers cannot meet the NFA's quality specifications due to the lack of drying and other post-harvest facilities.”

Montemayor added that the apprehensions were exacerbated by the reduction in tariffs on rice imports to 15 percent under Executive Order (EO) 62 which took effect last July.

He also noted that retail prices have decreased by an average of P0.40 per kilo since then compared to the promised drop of P7 per kilo.

The group debunked claims that the market's slow reaction to the tariff cut was because traders were first disposing of stocks bought at higher prices in previous months.

“It does not make sense for traders to hold on to cheap stocks imported with 15 percent tariff while retail prices are still high. They are in fact maximizing their profits now instead of passing on their tariff savings to consumers.”

Citing import data from the Bureau of Customs, the group said the declared cost of imported rice with 5 percent brokens, inclusive of the 15 percent tariff in July and August, was only P34 per kilo.

It added that in turn, retail prices of equivalent rice grades in the local market averaged over P55 per kilo, indicating a P20 per kilo profit margin for traders.

The group estimated that the government lost around P3.4 billion in customs duties from 581,000 metric tons of dutiable imports that entered the country in July and August as a result of the reduction in rice tariffs.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/19/traders-buying-palay-at-lower-prices-group/>

UP-PCC study seen improving buffalo breeding program

Bless Aubrey Ogerio
September 19, 2024

The domesticated buffaloes in the Philippines, long thought to be subspecies, are two distinct species, according to the results of a joint study conducted by researchers from the University of the Philippines and the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC).

Genetic and chromosomal analyses done by researchers showed that the swamp buffalo, previously classified as *Bubalus bubalis carabanensis*, should now be recognized as *Bubalus kerabau* Fitzinger, 1860, while the riverine buffalo will still be known as *Bubalus bubalis bubalis*.

Farmers have traditionally crossbred these buffaloes to enhance milk and meat production. However, the recent findings may lead to a reevaluation of this practice, as unsuccessful hybrids may fail to meet desired traits.

“Confusions on the classifications of the two buffaloes have implications on the breeding program of these species,” said Dr. Ian Kendrick Fontanilla, one of the lead researchers from UP.

Swamp buffaloes, typically used as draught animals, are smaller, weighing between 325 and 450 kilograms, and feature crescent-shaped horns. Their meat could appeal to niche markets centered on sustainable or traditional farming methods.

Meanwhile, the larger riverine buffalo, which weighs up to 1,000 kilograms with curly horns, is primarily raised for milk and meat production. Renowned for its high-quality milk, the riverine buffalo’s dairy products, such as mozzarella and other cheeses, could be more effectively marketed as premium items.

“These results corroborate the observed differences in their appearances and uses,” said Dr. Lilian Villamor from the PCC.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, the country has a significant population of dairy carabaos (local swamp buffaloes). As of September 2023, they made up 33.2 percent of the total dairy animal inventory, with approximately 98,880 heads.

Dairy carabao milk averaged P74.36 per liter in the third quarter of 2023, despite a slight decrease from the previous year. It remains significantly more valuable than cow’s milk, which averaged P37.60 per liter.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/19/up-pcc-study-seen-improving-buffalo-breeding-program/>

‘Adherence to biosecurity measures crucial to fighting ASF’

Ada Pelonia
September 19, 2024

Vaccinating pigs against Africa swine fever (ASF) alone will not prevent more outbreaks of the fatal hog disease, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

DA officials appealed to raisers and other stakeholders in the local farm sector to continue observing stringent biosecurity measures to stop the spread of ASF, which recently struck farms in Batangas—a major hog-producing region in the Philippines.

They also announced last Tuesday that initial results from vaccination drive it conducted in Lobo, Batangas, showed that most of the inoculated pigs remain in good health.

“The ELISA test results showed the presence of antibodies against ASF in some pigs, indicating they are building immunity. All remaining pigs are healthy and under close observation,” Agriculture Assistant Secretary Constante Palabrica said in a statement.

The DA said ELISA measures the immune response by detecting antibody levels. An increase in percentage blocking suggests stronger immunity.

“The DIVA test distinguishes between vaccinated pigs and those infected with the field virus, which will help determine if the virus in the deceased pigs is linked to the vaccine or external sources.

Apart from vaccination, Palabrica said there is also a need to implement “comprehensive measures” that would help curb the spread of the disease.

“Vaccination is crucial, but it must be accompanied by stringent biosecurity practices to prevent further outbreaks. Honest and timely reporting from farmers is essential for the program’s success.”

Meanwhile, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. reaffirmed the government’s commitment to finding “a long-term ASF solution” and expressed optimism about the vaccine’s potential.

“These initial results are part of a broader effort to protect our swine population. We remain hopeful, but cooperation from all stakeholders is vital. Strict adherence to vaccination protocols and biosecurity measures is crucial.”

The DA said it is committed to providing further updates as ongoing tests are completed and analyzed.

“The 30-day post-vaccination period is critical for assessing vaccine effectiveness and ensuring the health of the remaining pigs.”

Laurel had issued Special Order (SO) 1265, which designated Agriculture Assistant Secretary Constante J. Palabrica as leader of the task force on ASF vaccination. BAI Officer-in-Charge Hyacinth G. Napiloy and BAI Livestock Research and Development Division chief Marivic M. De Vera are vice-chairs.

“The task force shall provide the oversight on the implementation of the controlled roll-out on the use of vaccine against ASF,” SO 1265 read.

The government began its pig vaccination drive in Lobo, Batangas last August 30. ASF struck hog farms in a number of towns in Batangas, which is one of the country’s major hog-producing provinces.

The DA said it is mulling over the grant of ASF vaccine subsidy for backyard raisers. The initial cost of the vaccines could range from P400 to P500 per dose.

Aside from vaccinating pigs, the government had also set up livestock checkpoints to control the spread of the virus.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/19/adherence-to-biosecurity-measures-crucial-to-fighting-asf/>

BUSINESS MIRROR

EU degraded-forest ban favors PHL coconut oil exports

Andrea E. San Juan
September 18, 2024

PHILIPPINE coconut oil exports can capture a larger share of the European Union (EU) market amid the 27-member bloc's move to impose a ban on imported agricultural goods linked to forest degradation, according to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

“We are seeing an opportunity for our coconut oil exports to get a larger share of the EU market since our palm oil competitors will be affected by the EU Deforestation Regulation,” DTI- Export Marketing Bureau (DTI-EMB) Director Bianca Pearl R. Sykimte told the BusinessMirror in a Viber message on Tuesday.

The EUDR, a measure that would require entities to demonstrate that their products are not linked to forest degradation, covers coffee, cocoa, soy, palm oil, wood, rubber and cattle.

Sykimte said these are not included in the top Philippine export products to the 27-member bloc.

In 2023, EU emerged as the fifth largest export market of the Philippines, she noted.

“The top Philippine exports to the EU were: electronics, semiconductors, coconut oil and tuna,” Sykimte also told this paper.

She pointed out that these products contributed more than 70 percent to total Philippine exports to the EU, amounting to \$8.37 billion.

Based on the data processed by DTI-EMB and obtained by this paper, coconut oil ranked third among the Philippines's export products to the 27-member bloc, amounting to \$547.15 million in 2023.

It is also worth noting that Philippine coconut oil exports posted a 56.8-percent growth rate in the January to July 2024 period, reaching \$1.11 billion, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed.

This commodity posted the second fastest growth rate among the Philippines's goods exports, as it trailed behind copper concentrates.

Nonetheless, Sykimte said that from the end of DTI's export marketing arm, they have been "closely following developments on this so we can prepare our exporters."

For her part, De La Salle University (DLSU) economist Maria Ella Oplas told this paper, "We are not that affected. I suggest we be silent."

Oplas also pointed out that while "greening the supply chain is noble, it will be hard to execute, especially that economics can be primary over being green."

In contrast, Ateneo De Manila University (ADMU) Economist Leonardo Lanzona thinks this measure will affect Philippine trade and the economy as cost of exports are seen to rise.

"The move to ban imports from deforested areas is consistent with all the EU restrictions on free trade arrangements," Lanzona told this paper.

Since such regulations are imposed by EU on their own members, Lanzona said, "They expect the same regulations to apply to their trading partners in order to level the playing field. Such regulations then will definitely affect negatively Philippine trade and the economy as the costs of the exports are now expected to rise."

However, he emphasized that this regulation "should not discourage" the Philippines from having a free trade agreement with EU given the markets that would now become accessible to the country once such an agreement is formed.

“It is up to the government now to ensure that we keep our end of the bargain,” he added.

In a statement in April, 2024, the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. (Philexport) said their sector must prepare for the entry into force of the European Union Deforestation Regulation at the end of this year to ensure they have continued access to the EU market.

This regulation applies to entities exporting commodities such as cattle/beef, soy, coffee, coco, palm oil, rubber and wood.

These seven products, all of which are major drivers of deforestation, will no longer be sold in the EU if sourced from areas affected by deforestation or forest degradation practices.

“Companies have until December 30 this year to be compliant, except for micro and small undertakings, for which the regulation will apply from June 30, 2025. Businesses should now consider the impact of the EUDR on their supply chain due diligence to prepare for the new obligations that apply from December 2024,” the Philexport statement read.

Meanwhile, a report published by the Financial Times last week reported that Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the head of the World Trade Organization (WTO), asked Brussels to “relook” the said measure.

“I want to give the EU credit for listening, coming in and engaging and listening to other members. And I hope that they use the feedback that they’ve got here to relook at the system,” she told the Financial Times in an interview, adding that many G20 leaders had raised the issue with her.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/18/eu-degraded-forest-ban-favors-phl-coconut-oil-exports/>

Government think tank finds limited impact of RTL on prices, productivity

BusinessMirror Editorial
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The Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department (CPBRD) released a paper in May, which evaluated the impact of the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL) on prices and productivity. The government think tank noted that retail prices for all types of rice gradually declined until 2021. That year, regular-milled rice was cheaper by P5.09/kg compared to the 2018 level.

In terms of farmers' productivity, CPBRD noted that the national average yield improved to 4.05 metric tons per hectare from the 2018 level of 3.97 mt/ha. In 2023, farmers produced an average of 4.17 mt/ha of rice, the highest since the RTL was implemented. During the same period, irrigated and non-irrigated areas recorded yield production of 4.51 mt/ha and 3.34 mt/ha, respectively.

Despite these improvements in yield, the Philippines continued to import rice in huge quantities. The country is expected to again become the world's largest rice importer this year, according to the projection made by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Imports typically bridge the production gap for the private sector to beef up their inventory as the government is now prohibited to import rice.

A paper published by the University of Asia and the Pacific's (UA&P) Center for Food and Agribusiness (CFA) that also assessed the rice interventions put in place by the government under RTL indicated that the law failed to make a significant impact on productivity and farm efficiency. (See, **“UA&P: Rice interventions didn't have dent on industry,” in the BusinessMirror, September 9, 2024**). The center attributed this to “frequent changes in leadership, lack of continuity of programs, slow adoption of high-yielding varieties and modern agronomic technologies, costly farm labor with still low usage of mechanization and post-harvest facilities, and low milling efficiency.”

In a separate paper, the CPBRD noted that data from the Philippine Statistics Authority strongly suggests that the RTL and the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) “have not altered the trajectory of the Philippine rice industry in any meaningful way.” CPBRD said there was no “appreciable increase in productivity” in the domestic rice sector in the years following the implementation of the RTL and RCEF. Its analysis of the data from the Philippine Statistics Authority in 2019 to 2022 showed that the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) for irrigated palay reached only 1.07 percent versus the 2.37 percent recorded in 2000 to 2018, prior to the enactment of RTL.

Our citizens are calling for improved outcomes from the government, especially from the agencies involved in implementing the interventions aimed at improving rice productivity and increasing farmers’ income. Billions of pesos have already been poured into the rice sector and it will get more resources if Congress will approve the amendments to the RTL, including the increase in and the extension of the life of RCEF. Further delays in rolling out interventions outlined by RTL will only make it more difficult for this administration to make good on the President’s promise to significantly reduce prices.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/18/government-think-tank-finds-limited-impact-of-rtl-on-prices-productivity/>

Bagsak presyo ng bigas, mararamdaman sa Enero

[Angie dela Cruz](#)

September 19, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Tinaya ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. na sa Enero ng susunod na taon pa mararamdman ng taumbayan ang bagsak presyo ng bigas sa bansa.

Ito ayon kay Laurel ay kahit na nagdesisyon ang pamahalaan na bawasan ang taripa sa importasyon ng bigas simula sa susunod na buwan ng Oktubre.

Anya, hindi pa nakakabangon ang mga rice traders sa naging epekto sa kanila ng nagdaang El Nino Phenomenon kayat bagamat nagdesisyon ang pamahalaan na ipatupad ang pagbabawas sa tariff imports sa bansa ay sa Enero pa ng susunod na taon mararamdaman ang bagsak presyo ng bigas dahil sa nagdaang kalamidad.

Una nang nalagdaan ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. ang Executive Order 62 na nagsasaad ng pagbaba ng taripa sa rice imports ng 15% mula sa dating 35%. Sa pamamagitan nito ay inaasahan ang pagbaba ng halaga ng bigas.

Tinaya ng mga economic managers na aabutin ng P5 hanggang P7 ang bawas presyo sa bigas kada kilo dahil sa pagbaba ng tariff imports.

Sa ngayon ang presyo sa mga palengke at pamilihan ng well miled rice ay nasa P37 hanggang P42 kilo, Sinandomeng - P36 hanggang P42, Denorado - P48 hanggang P55, Angelica- P43 hanggang P46, Jasmine P46-P52 at Malagkit P60 kada kilo.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/09/19/2386306/bagsak-presyo-ng-bigas-mararamdaman-sa-enero>