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MANILA BULLETIN:

Hog raisers laud Laurel for immediate ASF action, urge government to expedite vaccination

BY [AARON RECUENCO](#)

Sep 3, 2024 09:55 PM

Various agricultural groups urged on Tuesday, Sept. 2, the Department of Agriculture (DA) to expedite the vaccination process against African Swine Fever (ASF) amid the continuous threat to the swine-raising industry.

DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr. earlier gave a go-signal for the importation of 10,000 doses of ASF vaccines, the vaccination started last week in Batangas, one of the hardest-hit provinces of the fatal virus.

The groups, consisting of the Agricultural Sector Alliance of the Philippines (AGAP), National Federation of Hog Farmers (NFHF), and Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines (PPFP), lauded Laurel for the immediate action through the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).

AGAP Partylist Representative Nick Briones said the immediate vaccination brought a sigh of relief to the industry, which he said, has been hurting from the effects of the ASF.

“Our groups extoll Sec. Laurel for the immediate rollout of the vaccination process. Hog raisers have already lost several millions of their hard-earned money due to ASF. However, we also wanted a speedy process regarding the inoculation process of pigs,” said Briones.

NFHF chairman and president Chester Tan is confident that the ASF vaccine can resolve the ongoing infestation of the virus while PPFP president Rolando Tambago is seeking for a speedy and unhampered vaccination program not just in Batangas but in other provinces where hog raising is a bread and butter.

“Backyard hog raisers are now in a dire situation, that is why we are asking for the DA-BAI to also prioritize them. They are the ones that have small capital to continue their businesses,” said Tambago.

The groups also urged the government to deputize vaccinators in the local government units, in collaboration with agriculture cooperatives and private veterinarians in the inoculation of pigs.

“Accredited laboratories of DA-BAI should also be allowed to do blood testing on swine as a preventive measure against ASF. Through this, the whole hog-raising industry will be assured that their hogs and swine will be protected from the virus,” said Briones.

The groups also expressed hope that the DA and Food and Drug Administration will allow the commercial use of the ASF vaccine so that more pigs will be inoculated and protected from ASF, benefitting meat producers and consumers.

Apart from areas in Lobo, the DA-BAI will roll out its validation procedures to include all qualified farms in ring areas of Lobo, other towns in Batangas, and eventually red zones in the Calabarzon Region.

The DA reiterated that pigs that will be vaccinated must be healthy, negative for ASF, at least four weeks or older, of the same age group within a farm, and with a minimum of 50 pigs per farm or cluster.

To date, 458 villages in 15 regions are now under ASF red zones, with the highest number of affected barangays reported in North Cotabato at 87, Occidental Mindoro at 69, Batangas, and Quezon at 47.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/9/3/hog-raisers-laud-laurel-for-immediate-asf-action-urges-government-to-expedite-vaccination>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA to pilot new credit program

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

September 4, 2024 | 12:00am



Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) will roll out a new credit program next month, providing P60,000, at low interest rate, to rice farmers to finance their input needs and monthly expenses while waiting for harvest.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the DA would trial a credit program in partnership with the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) aimed at improving the productivity of irrigated farm lands.

The DA targets to onboard at least 50,000 farmers tilling irrigated lands for the initial implementation of the program.

Under the program dubbed as Agri-Puhunan at Pantawid, each farmer belonging to irrigators' associations would receive P60,000 with an interest rate of two percent.

Of the amount, P28,000 would be used by the farmers to purchase seeds and fertilizer to complement the inputs they receive from the DA.

The remaining amount of P22,000 can be withdrawn by the farmers each month to finance daily expenses while waiting for the harvest of their crops.

The farmers who would enroll in the program would also be insured to protect their crops from unforeseen circumstances like natural calamities, Tiu Laurel said.

“As long as they perform then they will be provided credit continuously,” he said.

The credit program would also entail a contract farming scheme wherein rice farmers would have a guaranteed price of P21 per kilogram to ensure their market and profit, the agriculture chief said.

Tiu Laurel said the DA and the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. are looking for ways to expand and increase the coverage of its insurance products.

“Once that happens, we will be able to attract young farmers. We have to make farming bankable and one thing to make it bankable is through insurance,” he said.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/09/04/2382647/da-pilot-new-credit-program>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

P390-M calamity aid on the way to Enteng victims – Romualdez

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLaluINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:01 PM September 03, 2024



House Speaker Martin Romualdez —Martin Romualdez Facebook photo

MANILA, Philippines — Relief assistance amounting to P390 million has been mobilized toward communities affected by Severe Tropical Storm Enteng, House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez said on Tuesday as he facilitated the release of the funds.

Romualdez in a statement on Tuesday said he was instructed by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to facilitate the release of the P390 million aid to indigent individuals hit by Enteng, particularly those from Metro Manila and Calabarzon.

According to Romualdez, his office and Tingog party-list will also distribute around 35,000 food packs containing canned goods, noodles, and rice at different evacuation centers in Metro Manila and Rizal.

“We will start our relief mission with the help of the Tingog party-list. We initially asked for a separate financial aid for the severely affected districts in accordance with the directive of President Bongbong Marcos to aid those hit by the storm,” Romualdez said.

“My heartfelt sympathies are with all Filipino families affected by Typhoon Enteng. The flooding in the National Capital Region and Calabarzon, especially soon after Typhoon Carina, is a heavy burden,” he added.

According to Romualdez, the public can be assured that they are not alone in recovering from the effects of the two cyclones.

“I understand how overwhelming it must be to face these challenges back-to-back, and I want you to know that you are not alone—we stand with you during this difficult time,” he added.

Romualdez said that a financial aid amounting to P10 million will be distributed to families in each of the 39 congressional districts affected by the typhoon.

The P390 million financial assistance will come from the Department of Social Welfare and Development’s Ayuda Para sa Kapos ang Kita Program (AKAP).

“We, at the House of Representatives, have quickly organized financial assistance to help those in need. Through the DSWD AKAP Program, we are providing P10,000 to each of the affected families. While this may be a small step, I hope it offers some immediate relief and helps you begin the process of rebuilding,” he said.

“I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the House Members who moved swiftly to ensure this support reached those who need it most. Their dedication to serving their communities in such trying times is commendable,” he added.

Latest reports from the disaster response agencies and local governments showed that at least 13 have died due to Enteng’s onslaught, which caused flash floods and landslides in different areas.

The strong rains forced Malacañang to suspend government work and school for Monday and Tuesday.

Enteng’s effect comes a little over a month after Typhoon Carina enhanced the southwest monsoon, which caused massive rains and floods over the same areas.

Last August 23, the Department of Agriculture said that the country’s farm sector lost P4.73 billion worth of agricultural commodities due to Carina and the monsoon rains, affecting the following regions:

- **Cordillera Administrative Region**
- **Ilocos Region**
- **Cagayan Valley**
- **Central Luzon**
- **Calabarzon**
- **Mimaropa**
- **Bicol Region**
- **Western Visayas**
- **Eastern Visayas**

- **Zamboanga Peninsula**
- **Soccsksargen**
- **Caraga**

“As we work together to recover from the effects of Typhoon Enteng, let us continue to support one another. Though the road ahead may be challenging, with compassion and determination, I believe we can rebuild and move forward,” Romualdez said.

“To the typhoon victims, please take care and remember that we are with you every step of the way,” he added.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1979707/p390-m-calamity-aid-on-the-way-to-sts-enteng-victims-romualdez>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Chicken, fish production expansion in PH urged amid ASF resurgence

By: [Luisa Cabato](#) - Reporter / [@luisacabatoINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 10:51 AM September 03, 2024



INQUIRER.net stock images

MANILA, Philippines — An agriculture group on Tuesday called on the government for the product expansion of chicken and fish in the country amid the resurgence of African Swine Fever (ASF).

In a statement, the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) said ASF poses a threat to the supply of pork, especially in barangays with active cases.

Pork is the third main source of meat in the country, following chicken and fish.

“One advantage of chicken is that the main system of local production is large scale and not backyard size as with pork,” said PRRM President Edicio dela Torre, as quoted in the statement.

He added that production of other protein sources is important, especially that the holiday season is coming in a few months where demand usually increases.

Moreover, the PRRM stressed that importation of dressed chicken, or those slaughtered for human consumption, needs to be reduced and instead focus on the local production.

Citing data from the National Meat Inspection Service, the group said there are 31,917 metric tons (MT) of dressed chicken in cold storage facilities as of last week.

From this, 68 percent or about 21,601 MT are imported and only 10,315 MT are local.

The PRRM also advocated for an increase in fish production.

“Fish and shellfish supply has to increase also to meet the demand for protein. In the case of marine products, aquaculture must increase its share vis-a-vis fish capture,” said dela Torre.

The PRRM stressed the importance of advancing the country’s capabilities beyond artisanal or small-scale fishing, particularly in the West Philippine Sea.

In relation to this, the group noted that the Philippine Maritime Zones Bill and the Blue Economy Bill could help in the country’s food security goals.

The Philippine Maritime Zones Bill aims to define and declare the country’s maritime zones, while the Blue Economy Bill seeks to promote stewardship and sustainable development of marine wealth within the country’s maritime domains.

As of August 8, the Bureau of Animal Industry said the ASF has spread to 11 regions, 22 provinces, and 64 municipalities nationwide.

It is a viral disease of farm-raised and wild pigs with a 100 percent fatality rate.

<https://business.inquirer.net/477930/group-on-chicken-fish-production-amid-asf>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Thailand nets 1.3 million kilograms of invasive blackchin tilapia

Agence France-Presse / 03:35 PM September 03, 2024



This photograph taken on July 15, 2024 shows blackchin tilapia fish in a basket after being caught in a canal in Bangkok. Thailand has netted more than 1.3 million kilos of highly destructive blackchin tilapia fish, the government said September 3, as it battles to stamp out the invasive species. Agence France-Presse

BANGKOK — Thailand has netted more than 1.3 million kilograms of highly destructive blackchin tilapia fish, the government said Tuesday, as it battles to stamp out the invasive species.

Shoals of blackchin tilapia, which can produce up to 500 young at a time, have been found in 19 Thai provinces, damaging ecosystems in rivers, swamps and canals by preying on small fish, shrimp and snail larvae.

As well as the ecological impact, the government is worried about the effect on the kingdom's crucial fish-farming industry.

“From February to August 28, 1,332,000 kilograms of blackchin tilapia were caught — 590,840 kilograms from natural water sources and 743,550 kilograms from breeding ponds,” Nattacha Boonchaiinsawat, the vice-president of a parliamentary committee set up to tackle the spread of the fish, told AFP.

“We talked to local residents and found out that the spread of tilapia has got worse — they found them in small canals, which was not the case before,” he added.

The outbreak of tilapia will cost the Thai economy at least 10 billion baht (\$293 million), Nattacha said.

The fish, native to West Africa, were first discovered in Thailand's rivers in 2010 before spreading rapidly in 2018, and are now also found in the US state of Florida and in the Philippines.

In July, the Thai government declared the eradication of the species a national priority.

It remains unclear how the fish arrived in Thailand, but local media reports have said they could have been imported by a company from Ghana in 2010.

A parliamentary investigation is underway to determine the cause of the infestation, Nattacha said.

The Thai government has encouraged locals to catch the fish, offering to pay people 15 baht (\$0.42) per kilogram.

It has also designated 75 vending areas around the country where the fish can be sold.

Authorities have released predator species to hunt down the tilapia and are also developing genetically modified blackchin tilapia to produce sterile offspring.

A UN science panel warned last year that the tilapia are spreading faster than ever, wrecking crops, distributing disease and upending ecosystems.

<https://globalnation.inquirer.net/247553/thailand-nets-1-3-million-kilograms-of-invasive-blackchin-tilapia>

BUSINESS WORLD:

PHL farm trade deficit widens 13.8% in Q2

September 3, 2024 | 8:18 pm



REUTERS

THE deficit in the trade of agricultural goods expanded 13.8% year on year in the second quarter to \$3.07 billion, according to preliminary data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

In a report, the PSA said overall trade — or the sum of exports and imports — rose 14.3% to \$6.79 billion during the quarter, against a 14.7% decline a year earlier.

Agricultural exports rose 14.7% to \$1.86 billion for the three-month period, accounting for 10.2% of total exports.

Edible fruit and nuts as well as peel of citrus fruit and melons took up the largest share of farm exports, valued at \$543.62 million or 29.2% of the total.

Agricultural products shipped to Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries accounted for 8.8% of total exports at \$227.24 million.

The top ASEAN exports were animal, vegetable, or microbial fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; and animal or vegetable waxes amounting to \$91.74 million.

Malaysia was the Philippines' top export market for farm goods during the second quarter, accounting for \$95.22 million or 41.9% of all ASEAN farm exports.

It added that trade to the European Union (EU) consisted of 18.6% of overall agricultural exports, amounting to \$358.93 million.

“Among the EU member countries, the Netherlands was the country’s top destination of agricultural commodities worth \$179.77 million, or 50.1% of the total agricultural exports to EU member countries for this quarter,” the PSA said.

Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products, prepared edible fats and animal or vegetable waxes were the top agricultural exports to the region.

The PSA also reported that the import of agricultural goods rose 14.1% year on year to \$4.94 billion in the three months to June.

In April, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. issued Administrative Order No. 20 instructing the departments of Agriculture, Finance, and Trade and Industry to simplify the administrative procedures for agricultural imports, as well as remove non-tariff barriers.

Cereals remained the top agricultural import for the second quarter at 26% of the total, valued at \$1.28 billion.

For the period, imports of agricultural goods from ASEAN were valued at \$1.86 billion or 16.4% of total imports. Cereals were the top commodities imported from ASEAN.

“Vietnam was the leading supplier of agricultural products to the Philippines among ASEAN member countries,” the PSA said, with \$686.60 million.

It added that imports from the EU amounted to \$450.29 million or 24.6% of farm imports by value in the quarter.

Spain was the top EU supplier of farm goods, accounting for \$122.27 million or 27.2% of overall farm imports.

Meat and edible meat offal were the top imports from the EU, followed by dairy, eggs, honey, and edible products of animal origin. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/09/03/617930/phl-farm-trade-deficit-widens-13-8-in-q2/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

S. Korean aid agency in tie-up to expand livestock forage

September 3, 2024 | 8:16 pm



DAR.GOV.PH

THE Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) said that it has entered into a partnership with the Korea International Cooperation Agency to improve forage production for livestock.

In a statement, the PCC said that the program will employ drones to survey land in aid of developing a strategy for sustainable forage production.

THE SENATE on Tuesday approved on second reading a bill seeking to raise the annual allocation for the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) to P30 billion from P10 billion until 2031.

Senate Bill No. 2779 allocates P9 billion from the RCEF to the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization and sets aside P6 billion to develop and grow “high-quality inbred rice seeds.”

In May, the House of Representatives approved its version of the measure, which sought to restore the National Food Authority’s power to import rice during national emergencies. House Bill No. 10381 increased RCEF to P15 billion from P10 billion.

In the Senate measure, the Department of Agriculture (DA) will be given the power to declare a food security emergency due to shortages or “extraordinary” increases in rice prices.

In emergencies, the DA may sell the NFA’s rice reserves in areas suffering shortages or “extraordinary” high prices of the grain, replenish the inventory with domestic rice, and import rice if no domestic grain is available.

The Secretary of Agriculture will be given the authority to designate the importing entity, while the NFA remains barred from importing rice.

Farmers tilling two hectares of land or less may also tap an P8-billion cash aid fund under the amended RCEF.

The fund also allocates P2 billion in credit assistance to rice farmers at minimal interest rates, with the program managed by the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines.

The measure also provides P1.4 billion from RCEF for the construction of solar-powered irrigation systems, and another P1.4 billion for composting facilities.

The Rice Tariffication Law of 2019 had deregulated rice imports, allowing private parties to import while paying a 35% tariff on grain brought in from Southeast Asia. The tariff generates the funds for RCEF. The tariff has since been reduced to 15%.

The law also removed the NFA's authority to import, restricting it to buying domestic grain to maintain an emergency inventory of rice for use during calamities.

The Senate's amendments to the rice law also include setting parameters for NFA inventory at "15 days during harvest season and 30 days during lean season," to be maintained in order to ensure food security in the event of emergencies.

A Rice Industry Development Program Management Office under the DA would also be established to maintain a national database of grain warehouses, with the power to regularly inspect these warehouses. — **John Victor D. Ordoñez**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/09/03/617932/senate-gives-2nd-reading-approval-to-rcef-bill-raising-allocation-to-p30b/>

REMATE:

Commercial use ng ASF vax, inaasahang papayagan ng FDA, DA

September 3, 2024 17:20



MANILA, Philippines – Nagpahayag ng buong suporta ang hog raiser associations, cooperatives at veterinary practitioners sa programa ng Department of Agriculture (DA) na pagbabakuna laban sa African Swine Fever (ASF), sa pamamagitan ng Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).

Simula nang magka-outbreak ng ASF noong 2019 ay naging malaki na ang epekto nito sa lokal na produksyon at suplay ng baboy na nagresulta sa malaking pagkalugi sa kabuhayan ng maraming magbababoy sa bansa.

Sa isang aktibidad na ginanap kamakailan sa SMX Convention Center, sinabi ni Rep. Nicanor ‘Nikki’ Briones, Pangulo ng Agricultural Sector Alliance of the Philippines (AGAP) Partylist, na matagal nang hinihintay ng mga magbababoy ang bakuna laban sa ASF kaya sila ay nagpapasalamat at natutuwa dahil natupad na rin ang kanilang inaasam.

Noong Agosto 30, partikular na nakatanggap ng bakuna kontra ASF ang mga hog farmer sa Batangas na lubhang maapektuhan ng nasabing virus sa mga baboy.

Ang ASF vaccination ay programa ng Department of Agriculture na isa sa nanguna sa pagbabakuna sa mga alagang baboy sa Batangas.

Sa panig naman ni Chester Tan ng National Federation of Hog Farmers, Inc Chairman/President na tiwala siya na malaki ang maitutulong ng bakuna sa pagsugpo sa sakit na ASF.

Nakikiusap naman ang Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines sa pangunguna ng kanilang presidente na si Rolando Tambago na magsagawa ng mabilis at walang pagkaantala ang vaccination program laban sa ASF sa mga probinsya na may mga naitalang kaso ng nasabing sakit sa baboy, partikular sa mga backyard hog raisers na apektado ng outbreak.

Hinihiling din ni Briones na ipatupad ang isang sistematikong roll-out sa pag-deputize ng mga vaccinator at pagpapakilos ng Local Government Unit (LGU), ahensya ng gobyerno at sa partisipasyon ng mga kooperatiba, private veterinarians, suppliers ng veterinary products, at iba pang mga volunteers upang agarang maiturok ang 10,000 doses sa baboy ng mga backyard raisers.

Sa kasalukuyan, 46 baboy ang nabakunahan sa unang araw, at aabutin ito ng pitong buwan upang ganap na maibigay ang mga naturang doses ng bakuna sa ASF.

Ang DA, sa pamamagitan ng BAI, maaaring magtalaga ng mga private veterinarians upang tumulong sa pagbabakuna, habang ang mga akreditadong laboratoryo ng DA-BAI, maaaring pahintulutan na magsagawa ng blood testing galing sa mga baboy bago ang pagbabakuna.

Sa pamamagitan nito, makatitiyak tayo sa mabilis na pangangalaga sa industriya ng baboy laban sa ASF.

Pinupuri ng grupo ng mga magbababoy ang DA at BAI sa pagsisikap nito sa pag-oorganisa ng programa sa pagbabakuna.

Umaasa ang grupo na papayagan ng DA at FDA ang commercial use na paggamit ng bakuna sa ASF sa susunod na buwan matapos na malaman kung may sapat na antibody ang mga nabakunahang baboy para labanan ang ASF.

Ayon kay Briones, ito ay para sa kapakinabangan ng mga pork producers and consumers. ***Jocelyn Tabangcura-Domenden***

<https://remate.ph/commercial-use-ng-asf-vax-inaasahang-papayagan-ng-fda-da/>

REMATE:

Pagbyahe ng malulusog na baboy sa ASF red zones pinayagan ng DA

September 3, 2024 10:21



MANILA, Philippines – Pinapayagan na ngayon ang paglipat ng malulusog at African swine fever (ASF)-negative hogs mula sa mga red zone o barangay na may aktibong kaso ng ASF, ayon sa Department of Agriculture (DA).

Ito ay alinsunod sa Administrative Circular (AC) No. 6 ng DA, serye ng 2024, o ang mga alituntunin sa mga protocol ng paggalaw para sa mga buhay na baboy para sa mga layunin ng pagpatay, na nilagdaan noong Agosto 29.

“Basically, the situation is kapag tumama naman sa isang lugar hindi naman lahat iyan e. So, tetesting ang bawat farm. Kung negative, kailangan ilabas,” ani DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. sa isang online na panayam noong Linggo.

Sa ilalim ng Seksyon II ng AC 6, s. 2024, ang paggalaw ng malusog at ASF-negative na mga baboy “sa labas ng 500-meter hanggang 1-kilometer radius mula sa kung saan natukoy ang impeksyon ng ASF ay maaaring payagan sa loob ng lungsod/munisipyo.”

“Ang mga buhay na baboy mula sa mga lugar sa labas ng 1-kilometro na radius ngunit nasa loob pa rin ng red (infected) zone ay maaaring dalhin para sa pagpatay sa lahat ng zone, napapailalim sa pagsunod sa mga kinakailangan na itinakda sa Circular na ito.”

Ang mga baboy ay dapat na ihatid mula sa pinanggalingan nang direkta sa tinukoy na destinasyon, na walang loading at unloading.

Ang paggalaw ng mga buhay na baboy, gayunpaman, mula sa parehong mga nahawaang sakahan at mga lugar sa loob ng 500-meter radius ng mga red zone, ay mahigpit pa ring ipinagbabawal.

Nauna nang nangako ang DA na ipagpapatuloy ang pagpapatupad ng mahigpit na biosecurity measures para maiwasan ang karagdagang pagkalat ng ASF, lalo na sa mga bahagi ng Northern Luzon, na nagsisilbing nangungunang pinagmumulan ng mga produktong baboy at baboy sa Metro Manila.

Noong Agosto 30, inilunsad ng DA- Bureau of Animal Industry ang unang pagbabakuna na kontrolado ng gobyerno sa Lobo, Batangas.

Nitong Agosto 21, mayroong 458 barangay sa 115 munisipalidad at 32 probinsya na nauuri pa rin bilang red zone. *Santi Celario*

<https://remate.ph/pagbyahe-ng-malulusog-na-baboy-sa-asf-red-zones-pinavagan-ng-da/>

PH exports raw sugar to US

By Eugene Adiong

September 4, 2024

BACOLOD CITY — For the first time since 2021, the Philippines will export raw sugar to the United States.

This is to fulfill its US quota allocation of 25,300 metric tons to participate in future import programs.

Cargo vessel Tate J bound for California, USA left Bredco port in Bacolod City on Tuesday. It is expected to arrive at its destination in a month.

The ship was originally scheduled to sail at 10 a.m. on Monday but was moved to Tuesday because of unfavorable weather.

"It will take 30 days for the cargo to reach US soil. This will balance out the supply of raw sugar in the country when milling starts this September," SRA Administrator Pablo Luis Azcona said.

Azcona said 30 sugar traders participated in the administration's call last year to buy domestic sugar to stabilize farmgate prices that dropped to P2,400 per 50-kilogram bag.

Under Sugar Order 3, they are allowed to import and export when needed.

Azcona, however, clarified that the country only exports raw sugar when there is overproduction.

As of May 12, raw sugar production was at 1.92 million metric tons. It exceeded the 1.799 million metric tons recorded the previous year.

Traders bought raw sugar at an average price of P2,700 per bag and sold it at the US export price of only P1,800 per bag.

"They are exporting sugar now at an estimated loss of P900 to P1,200 per bag of sugar," Azcona said.

However, he pointed out that the opportunity to import refined sugar will give them a little profit to recoup their expenses.

"What we are short of is refined sugar because we have fewer refineries," he said.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/04/regions/ph-exports-raw-sugar-to-us/1968863>

Agri trade deficit rises 13.8% to \$3.07B in Q2

By Janine Alexis Miguel
September 4, 2024

AGRICULTURAL trade in the second quarter (Q2) of the year posted a deficit of \$3.07 billion, or 13.8 percent more than the \$2.7 billion shortfall in the same period in 2023, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

The deficit also widened compared to P2.621 billion in the first quarter.

Data from PSA on Monday showed that although exports from April to June 2024 amounted to \$1.86 billion, up by 14.7 percent from \$1.6 billion, imports grew even more at \$4.93 billion, 14.1 percent higher than \$4.32 billion last year.

The country's Q2 total agricultural trade totaled \$6.79 billion, an increase of 14.3 percent from \$5.94 billion — a turnaround from the 14.7-percent annual decrease in the same period last year and higher than the 2.6-percent growth in the previous quarter.

Edible fruits and nuts and peels of citrus fruit melons accounted for the largest share of exports at \$543.62 million, an 84.2-percent jump from \$295.02 million.

Animal or vegetable fats and oils, and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; and animal or vegetable waxes netted \$543.45 million, 4.07 percent higher than \$522.18 million.

However, preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants were valued at \$176.03 million, 9.7 percent lower than \$194.99 million a year earlier.

Rounding up the country's top five agricultural exports were preparations of meat, fish, crustaceans, mollusks and other aquatic invertebrates at \$142.54 million and shipments of tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes at \$102.59 million.

The top 10 commodity groups in terms of export value contributed \$1.8 billion or 96.9 percent of export revenues for the quarter.

As for imports, cereals accounted for 26.0 percent at \$1.28 billion, a 44.28-percent spike from \$888.26 million followed by residues and waste from food industries and prepared animal fodder, \$567.24 million; miscellaneous edible preparations, \$525.34 million; meat and edible meat offal, \$467.3 million; and animal or vegetable fats and oils, and its cleavage products, and prepared edible fats, animal or vegetable waxes, \$357.27 million.

Among Association of Southeast Asian Nations member countries, Malaysia remained the biggest buyer of Philippine agricultural exports at \$95.22 million.

The Netherlands, among European Union member countries, was the top destination of Philippine agricultural commodities valued at \$179.77 million.

Michael Ricafort, chief economist at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., attributed the increase in agricultural trade to lower base effects as the economy reopens with normalcy after the pandemic.

He explained that higher imports and exports indicate a rise in global commodity prices driven by El Niño's impact on output and higher prices for rice and other products.

"For the coming months, the risk of La Niña would be a consideration in terms of storm damage that could cause some disruptions on crops and other agricultural damage," Ricafort said.

Moreover, the economist noted lower tariffs on imported rice that could boost rice imports and the country's inventory in anticipation of La Niña. Likewise, African swine fever was cited as a factor that could lead to increased pork and meat imports.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/04/business/top-business/agri-trade-deficit-rises-138-to-307b-in-q2/1968856>

Pagbabakuna vs ASF, suportado ng magbababoy

[Doris Franche-Borja](#)

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Ayon kay Nicanor 'Nikki' Briones, pangulo ng Agricultural Sector Alliance of the Philippines (AGAP) Partylist, simula ng magka-outbreak ng ASF noong 2019, naging malaki ang epekto nito sa lokal na produksyon at suplay ng baboy, na nagresulta sa malaking pagkalugi sa kabuhayan ng maraming magbababoy sa bansa.

STAR/File

MANILA, Philippines — Suportado ng hog raiser associations, cooperatives at veterinary practitioners ang programa ng Department of Agriculture (DA) at Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) ang pagbabakuna sa mga alagang baboy laban sa African Swine Fever (ASF).

Ayon kay Nicanor 'Nikki' Briones, pangulo ng Agricultural Sector Alliance of the Philippines (AGAP) Partylist, simula ng magka-outbreak ng ASF noong 2019, naging malaki ang epekto nito sa lokal na produksyon at suplay ng baboy, na

nagresulta sa malaking pagkalugi sa kabuhayan ng maraming magbababoy sa bansa.

Sinabi naman ni Chester Tan ng National Federation of Hog Farmers, Inc Chairman/President na tiwala siya na malaki ang maitutulong ng bakuna sa pagsugpo sa sakit na ASF. Malaki ang kanilang pasasalamat sa pagsisimula ng vaccination program.

Umapela naman si Rolando Tambago, presidente ng Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines na isagawa ng mabilis at walang pagkaantala sa vaccination program sa mga probinsya na may mga naitalang kaso, partikular sa mga backyard hog raisers.

Hinihiling din ni Briones na ipatupad ang isang sistematikong roll-out sa pag-deputize ng mga vaccinator at pagpapakilos ng Local Government Unit (LGU), ahensya ng gobyerno at mga kooperatiba, private veterinarians, suppliers ng veterinary products, at iba pang volunteers upang agarang maiturok ang 10,000 doses sa baboy ng mga backyard raisers.

Sa kasalukuyan, 46 baboy ang nabakunahan sa unang araw, at aabutin ito ng pitong buwan upang ganap na maibigay ang mga naturang doses ng bakuna sa ASF.

Dagdag ni Briones, ito ay para sa kapakinabangan ng mga pork producers and consumers.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/09/04/2382705/pagbabakuna-vs-asf-suportado-ng-magbababoy>