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MANILA BULLETIN:

Marcos finally conducts aerial inspection of Enteng-hit areas after cancelled twice

BY [RAYMUND ANTONIO](#)

Sep 4, 2024 02:10 PM

President Marcos was finally able to do an aerial inspection of typhoon-hit areas after the inclement weather brought by Severe Tropical Storm Enteng has twice prevented him from doing so.



President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. conducts an aerial inspection of Marikina and Antipolo areas to assess the extent of the damage caused by Typhoon Enteng. (Screengrab from the Presidential Communications Office)

A video clip from the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) on Wednesday, Sept. 4, showed Marcos aboard a helicopter to inspect the flood and damages brought by the typhoon.

The Chief Executive was able to fly over the flood-hit areas of Marikina, Antipolo and Metro Manila, and was supposed to also inspect Bulacan province but this was advised against because of the weather.

Earlier, his plan to conduct an aerial inspection in the past two days was canceled because the target areas were still not flyable.

“I have been trying to fly to do an inspection but--dalawang araw na akong gustong magpalipad pero sabi nung mga piloto namin hindi pa flyable ang mga ibang lugar (I had been wanting to fly for two days but our pilots said the areas were still not flyable),” the President said during the

situation briefing of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

“So, I will try to make an inspection as soon as I can so that makita natin kung ano ba talaga ang sitwasyon (we can see what’s the situation),” he added.

Marcos, however, assured that even if he could not do an aerial inspection of all typhoon-hit areas, he has been monitoring the situation.

“But nonetheless, we are continuing to monitor all the situations everywhere. And hopefully pagdaan nitong weather system na ito, makapunta tayo at (after these weather systems, we can go and) we will provide the assistances that we (were) talking about,” he said.

While state weather bureau Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said that the severe tropical storm has exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), some areas in Luzon will still experience monsoon rains.

Agricultural damages caused by Enteng has already reached P350.85 million, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said, adding that around 94 percent of the damages crops were rice plants, while four percent of the crops were corn and the other one percent are high-value crops.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/9/4/marcos-finally-conducts-aerial-inspection-of-enteng-hit-areas-after-cancelled-twice>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Villar vows support for bills that improve poultry industries

BY [DEXTER BARRO II](#)

Sep 4, 2024 09:00 PM

AT A GLANCE

- House Deputy Speaker Las Piñas City lone district Rep. Camille Villar says she is committed to pushing for the approval of measures in the House of Representatives that aim to protect and improve poultry industries.



Las Piñas City Rep. Camille Villar (Center, in green) during the 2024 Philippine Poultry Show and ILDEX Philippines event (Rep. Villar's office)

House Deputy Speaker Las Piñas City lone district Rep. Camille Villar says she is committed to pushing for the approval of measures in the House of Representatives that aim to protect and improve poultry industries.

This, as she stressed the need to support the sector amid the challenges it is currently facing.

"Our poultry sector is faced with numerous challenges: the presence of Avian Flu, the high input cost of feeds, and disease treatments that significantly affect poultry meat and egg production," said Villar.

The congresswoman noted that there are also importation woes that affect the entire chicken value chain—from poultry owners to street food vendors.

"We have to support our chicken and poultry industries," she emphasized.

Villar gave this assurance during the recently-concluded Philippine Poultry Show and International Livestock, Dairy, Meat Processing and Aquaculture Exposition (ILDEX) Philippines event.

She represented her mother, Senator Cynthia Villar, at the event. Senator Villar is the chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food.

The deputy speaker specifically vowed to push for the House's approval of the counterpart measure to the Livestock, Poultry, and Dairy Industry Development and Competitiveness bill in the Senate. Sponsored in the Senate by Senator Villar, the measure embodied in Senate Bill (SB) No. 2558 was already approved on third and final reading.

Meanwhile, the younger Villar pointed out that the poultry sector has made significant contributions to the Philippine economy. She specifically highlighted its provision of employment and its furthering of food security.

During the first quarter of this year, the industry has already accounted for P68.76 billion.

"Chicken delivers vital nutrients for all age groups, including potassium, vitamin D, iron, and calcium; while egg is also a powerhouse of disease-fighting nutrients, high-quality protein, iron, vitamins, minerals, and carotenoids," she added.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/9/4/villar-vows-support-for-bills-that-improve-poultry-industries>

MANILA BULLETIN:

‘Enteng’ death toll climbs to 15; state of calamity declared in 2 areas

BY [MARTIN SADONGDONG](#)

Sep 4, 2024 12:23 PM



An old woman cleans debris amid leg-deep flood in the aftermath of Severe Tropical Storm "Enteng" in Naga City, Camarines Sur on Sept. 3, 2024. (Photo courtesy of Mayor Nelson Legacion / Facebook)

The number of people who died due to Severe Tropical Storm (STS) "Enteng" increased to 15 on Wednesday, Sept. 4, according to the Office of Civil Defense (OCD).

In a situation briefing presided by President Marcos Jr. at the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Building in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, OCD Operations Service Director Cesar Idio said that the deadliest province for Enteng is Rizal where authorities recorded eight deaths due to drowning and landslide.

Two deaths apiece were also logged in Cebu City, Northern Samar, and Naga City due to rain-induced landslides, collapsed riprap, electrocution and drowning; while one fatality was noted in Negros Occidental due to drowning.

Aside from this, Idio said 21 persons were also missing including 15 fishermen in Camarines Norte, three in Samar, two in Northern Samar due to a flashflood, and one in Biliran.

Fifteen persons were also injured in Cebu City, Northern Samar, and Naga.

"But these are still subject for validation, Mr. President," Idio said.

Idio said the local government in Bicol (Region 5) requested for air support from the military to aid in search and rescue efforts for their missing fishermen.

"They have requested air assets because of the three boats that were reported [to have] sunk in Mercedes, [Camarines Norte] and they [fishermen] are still reported missing," he explained.

The official further stated that two areas were declared under a state of calamity due to the effects of Enteng: Naga City, Camarines Sur and Allen, Northern Samar.

The declaration of state of calamity will enable the local government of Naga to access its quick response fund (QRF) to allow the procurement of necessary food and non-food items for the typhoon victims, as well as materials for rehabilitation of damaged houses.

1.7M people affected

A total of 1,720,568 individuals (442,804) families were affected by Enteng in the National Capital Region (NCR), Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Ilocos (Region 1), Cagayan Valley (Region 2), Central Luzon (Region 3), Calabarzon (Region 4A), Bicol (Region 5), Western Visayas (Region 6), Central Visayas (Region 7), and Eastern Visayas (Region 8).

"Most affected regions are as follows: Region 5 with 267,073 affected families, followed by Region 3 (86,765 families) and then Region 8 (38,327 families) and fourth is NCR (17,975 families). The rest, the other regions have suffered less effects of the typhoon and southwest monsoon," Idio shared.

The rains and floods forced 88,077 individuals (21,681 families) to flee their homes and stay in evacuation centers while 18,757 individuals (6,348) were being served outside evacuation centers.

Authorities recorded 121 flooded cities/municipalities and 14 landslides.

Agri, infra damage

Enteng also caused P350.85 million worth of damage to the agriculture sector, affecting 13,623 farmers and recording a volume of production loss at 14.814 metric tons and 8,893 hectares of agricultural areas of rice, corn and high-value crops.

Meanwhile, damage to infrastructure was placed at P200,000 while 589 houses were either partially damaged or completely destroyed in Regions 3, 5, 6, and 7.

The storm also paralyzed some local governments as 39 out of 79 road sections were rendered not passable in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and CAR while 16 out of 19 bridges were not passable in Regions 1, 2, 3, and 5 due to flooding and damage.

Meanwhile, a total of P33 million worth of food and non-food items have been distributed to the typhoon victims.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/9/4/enteng-death-toll-climbs-to-15-state-of-calamity-declared-in-2-areas>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Speed up hog vaccination vs ASF, DA urged

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

September 5, 2024 | 12:00am



Nicanor Briones, president of the Agricultural Sector Alliance of the Philippines said the DA should work double time to lessen the effects of the disease on local pork production and supply.

AFP / File

MANILA, Philippines — Hograisers' groups yesterday asked the Department of Agriculture (DA) to hasten the vaccination of pigs against African swine fever (ASF) to prevent further losses in the swine industry.

Nicanor Briones, president of the Agricultural Sector Alliance of the Philippines said the DA should work double time to lessen the effects of the disease on local pork production and supply.

Briones said the swine industry has lost P150 billion to ASF since 2019.

He said the decision of Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. to launch the ASF vaccination program through the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) is commendable, but the program is moving slowly in provinces with ASF outbreaks.

Briones said the DA should implement a systematic vaccine rollout and tap as many vaccinators as possible.

He said the agency should mobilize teams composed of local government officials, cooperatives, private veterinarians, veterinary product suppliers and other volunteers.

“The DA and the Food and Drug Administration should allow the commercial use of ASF vaccine,” he said.

Meanwhile, National Federation of Hog Farmers chairman Chester Tan said that vaccination is the only way to prevent the spread of ASF and help hograisers recover from their losses.

Tan said representatives of hograisers’ associations, cooperatives and veterinary practitioners have asked Tiu Laurel to allow them to support the vaccination program against ASF.

Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines president Rolando Tambago said the DA should start the vaccination in other provinces, especially those engaged in backyard hog-raising business.

Tambago stressed the need to immediately utilize the 10,000 doses of ASF vaccine available in the country.

“At the current rate of 46 heads vaccinated per day, it would take several months to fully administer the initial doses of ASF vaccine, with many hogs already hit by the disease,” Tambago said.

He said the DA could deputize private veterinarians while BAI-accredited laboratories may be authorized to conduct hog testing prior to vaccination.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/09/05/2382935/speed-hog-vaccination-vs-asf-da-urged>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Marcos to PAGASA: Be dynamic in weather forecast

[Helen Flores](#) - The Philippine Star

September 5, 2024 | 12:00am



President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. presides over a situational briefing on the effects of Severe Tropical Storm #EntengPH at the NDRRMC headquarters in Quezon City on September 4, 2024.

PPA pool photos by Yummie Dingding

MANILA, Philippines — Amid criticisms over lack of enough warnings on Tropical Storm Enteng, President Marcos directed yesterday officials of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) to be more “dynamic” in making forecasts and issuing public advisories, especially during weather disturbances.

Marcos conducted an aerial inspection of Marikina and Antipolo, Rizal yesterday afternoon to check on the damage brought by the storm. The presidential helicopter flew

over some barren mountainous areas of Rizal that Marcos said is a primary cause of the landslides and flooding that claimed lives.

“We will have to look very, very closely at your forecasting, the meteorologists – meteorology assessment is the one that will guide our response,” the President said during a briefing with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

“And PAGASA, you’re going to have to be the guide what will really happen,” he said.

The President noted the task of weather forecasting has become “more and more difficult” because of climate change, since weather systems now develop much more quickly than they used to, he added.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda was among those who criticized the weather bureau for its alleged failure to provide enough warning to local government units before the onslaught of Enteng.

PAGASA officials asserted that enough advisories were issued before the onslaught of Enteng, insisting that it applied the PAR plus five, meaning, the Philippine area of responsibility is expanded by about five degrees in case a typhoon develops outside the PAR.

Agricultural damage

The damage of Enteng to the agriculture sector, particularly in the Bicol region, has reached P350.85 million and is expected to further increase, according to data from the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Based on the latest report of the DA’s Operations Center, as of 8 a.m. yesterday, the typhoon has devastated 8,893 hectares of agricultural areas of rice, corn and high value crops with production loss of 14,814 metric tons (MT) affecting 13,623 farmers.

Bulk of the damage was registered in rice plantations, totaling P333.08 million with total production loss of 13,887 MT covering 8,513 hectares. Meanwhile, corn production loss reached P14.01 million covering 361 hectares and production loss of 739 MT.

The damage in high value crops reached P3.76 million covering 19 hectares with production loss of 188 MT.

According to the DA, at least P202.86 million worth of assistance, including seeds, bio-control measures and farm tools were given to the affected farmers.

At a separate press briefing, DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said combined losses of palay production due to various calamities from January to August 2024 have reached almost 400,000 metric tons and could breach 600,000 MT annual average production losses amid the threat of La Niña.

Infrastructure damage

The Philippines has sustained nearly P109 million in public infrastructure damage so far from the non-stop rains brought by Enteng and the southwest monsoon.

In an advisory, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said the pounding rains in Luzon caused at least P108.49 million in damage to public structures as of Sept. 4.

Broken down, the partial cost of damage covers P54.26 million on infrastructure, P35.38 million on roads, P11.63 million on bridges and P7.02 million on flood control projects.

Over to the docks and piers, the Philippine Ports Authority reported that all ports affected by Enteng and the monsoon are back to normal operations.

Meanwhile, one road section in Central Luzon remains closed while two roads in NCR and Bataan have limited access due to flooding brought by Enteng, Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan said yesterday.

A total of nine road sections have been cleared and reopened by the DPWH since Monday in CAR, Regions 2, 4A, 5 and 8.

GSIS loans

State-run pension fund Government Service Insurance System has opened its emergency loan program to members and pensioners affected by Enteng.

GSIS members who have an existing emergency loan balance may borrow up to P40,000 to pay off their previous balance and still receive a maximum net amount of P20,000.

Those without existing emergency obligations, as well as pensioners, may apply for a P20,000 loan.

The loan is payable in three years or 36 equal monthly installments at an interest rate of six percent per annum.

It also has a loan redemption insurance, which deems the loan fully paid in case of the borrower's demise.

Meanwhile, telco operator PLDT, its wireless unit Smart Communications and Globe Telecom are working to keep their signals up to ensure that subscribers can contact authorities if need be. – **Bella Cariaso, Elijah Felice Rosales, Jose Rodel Clapano, Rainier Allan Ronda, Louise Maureen Simeon**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/09/05/2382998/marcos-pagasa-be-dynamic-weather-forecast>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

‘Enteng’ death toll rises to 15; 21 people still missing — OCD

[Jean Mangaluz](#) - Philstar.com

September 4, 2024 | 5:01pm



Youths wade in a storm surge along Manila Bay amid heavy rains brought by Tropical Storm #EntengPH in Manila on Monday, Sept. 2, 2024.

AFP / Jam Sta Rosa

MANILA, Philippines — The death toll from Severe Tropical Storm Enteng (international name: Yagi) left at least 15 people dead with 21 others missing, according to the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) on Wednesday, September 4.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. convened with different government agencies on the status of their responses to Enteng.

“On casualties, there are 15 dead, 15 injured, and 21 missing, reported, but these are still subject to validation,” OCD Director of the Operations Service Cesar Idio told Marcos.

According to the OCD, the reported deaths were as followed:

- **Rizal - eight fatalities due to drowning and landslides**
- **Negros Occidental - one fatality due to drowning**
- **Cebu City - two fatalities due to rain-induced landslides and collapsed riprap**
- **Northern Samar - two fatalities, cause not yet reported**
- **Naga - two fatalities due to electrocution and drowning**

For the missing persons, Idio said there are 15 missing fisherfolk in Camarines Norte, three missing persons in Samar, two missing in Northern Samar, and one missing in Biliran.

Meanwhile, 10 people were injured in Cebu City due to a collapsed riprap and rain-induced landslides. There were also four persons injured in Northern Samar and another one injured in Naga due to electrocution.

In the OCD's report, the number of persons affected by Enteng has so far reached 1,720,563. An estimated 88,077 people are still inside evacuation centers.

Citing data from the Department of Agriculture, damage to crops currently stands at P350.85 million, with 13,623 farmers affected and a production loss of 14,814 metric tons.

Damage to infrastructure is also estimated to be a hefty P200,000.000.

Preparing for future storms

After receiving the report, Marcos told the agencies to prepare for the prospective cyclone that may arrive next week.

PAGASA has forecast that there are three other tropical cyclone-like vortices, which are weather systems that may develop into a cyclone, which could enter the Philippine area of responsibility in the coming days.

“After everything that we do for Enteng continues, this storm is going to come in,” Marcos said.

Marcos said that the government agencies are relying on PAGASA's forecast to guide their actions, but acknowledged that the weather is unpredictable.

“We must assume that whatever we do now for the immediate needs for the people who are in the areas have been hit hard, let us think that another one is coming,” Marcos said.

Marcos instructed Social Welfare Secretary Rex Gatchalian to continue the procurement of relief goods to prepare for possible disasters.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/09/04/2382821/enteng-death-toll-rises-15-21-people-still-missing-ocd>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Rice imports accelerate in August

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

September 5, 2024 | 12:00am



Latest Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) data showed that some 463,754 MT of rice as of Aug. 29 has been imported under the lower tariff regime that began in July.

Philstar.com / Jovannie Lambayan

MANILA, Philippines — Rice imports are starting to pick up steam, with arrivals reaching almost half a million metric tons nearly two months after the government reduced tariffs to 15 percent.

Latest Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) data showed that some 463,754 MT of rice as of Aug. 29 has been imported under the lower tariff regime that began in July.

About 167,403.84 MT of rice arrived in the country in July, while 296,350.96 MT was imported last month, based on BPI data.

Economic managers are banking on the entry of imports slapped with a lower tariff rate to pull prevailing retail rice prices to below P50 per kilo.

The Philippine Statistics Authority earlier estimated that the tariff reduction would lead to a drop of P6 to P7 per kilo in retail rice prices.

Agriculture officials, including Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., have noted that the impact of the tariff cuts on the market would only be felt by October.

BPI data showed that total rice imports as of Aug. 29 reached 2.804 million MT, about 19 percent over the 2.353 million MT recorded volume in the same period last year.

Meanwhile, the DA yesterday junked onion farmers' calls to slash the volume of imported white onions by half, or 8,000 MT, after Tiu Laurel approved 16,000 MT of imported bulbs. – **Bella Cariaso**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/09/05/2382981/rice-imports-accelerate-august>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

12 dead, 7 missing due to Enteng – NDRRMC

[Michael Punongbayan](#) - The Philippine Star

September 5, 2024 | 12:00am



An aerial view of La Mesa Dam, which breached its spilling level of 80.15 meters.

Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Tropical Storm Enteng’s official death toll rose to 12 yesterday with at least seven people reported missing in various affected provinces in Luzon and the Visayas, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

The NDRRMC has yet to release more information about the fatalities, but its latest report identifies two of them as residents of San Jose and Tisa in Cebu City. Both reportedly died due to severe injuries caused by collapsed structures during heavy rainfall and flooding during the last two days.

In La Trinidad, Benguet, rescue personnel are still looking for a 16-year-old male who went missing after falling into the Mamaga creek between Barangays Lubas and Balili on Sept. 1.

In yesterday's report, the NDRRMC said Enteng has affected a total of 149,661 families or 547,029 persons in the Ilocos region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Bicol region, Western Visayas, Central Visayas and Metro Manila.

Of the number, 12,742 families or 50,076 persons are taking temporary shelter and are being provided basic needs in 323 evacuation centers.

So far, more than P31.2 million worth of assistance have been provided to some 48,140 families in areas or provinces most affected by Enteng.

The NDRRMC said 589 damaged houses have been reported in Central Luzon, Bicol, Western Visayas and Central Visayas.

The NDRRMC also reported that over a hundred areas remain flooded as of yesterday, but has yet to release data on estimated damage to agriculture and infrastructure.

Evacuations

At least 275 families in Valenzuela City were evacuated yesterday due to floods brought by the monsoon enhanced by Enteng, the local government reported.

The evacuees, numbering around 1,052 people, are from Barangays Bignay, Veinte Reales, Lingunan, Coloong, Lawang Bato, Canumay West, Dalandanan, Arkong Bato, Malanday, Marulas, Gen. T. De Leon and Maysan. They are currently staying in 17 evacuation centers and receiving relief supplies from the city government.

The city government also cancelled a mega job fair in SM City Valenzuela scheduled today due to inclement weather.

Parts of MacArthur Highway are flooded but remain passable to vehicles as of yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, the water level at Marikina River was measured at 14.7 meters at around 4 p.m., still below 15 meters which would trigger a first alarm, the local government said in a Facebook post.

In Aurora, 944 families were affected by Enteng, according to Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) chief engineer Elson Amado Egargue.

Egargue said displaced residents from the affected towns were temporarily housed in various evacuation centers and were provided with food packs.

The PDRRMO chief added there was no reported damage so far in infrastructure and agriculture in Aurora.

In Metro Manila, the cities of Pasig and Mandaluyong suspended yesterday face-to-face classes at all levels in both public and private schools.

In an advisory, the Pasig city government through its Public Information Office announced the suspension, citing the issuance by the state weather bureau PAGASA of “heavy rainfall warning” which was up to “Yellow Warning level” in Metro Manila.

The Mandaluyong city government, through its PIO, announced that face-to-face classes at all levels in both public and private schools are suspended.

In Pangasinan, Gov. Ramon Guico III ordered the suspension of classes in all levels, both public and private, yesterday due to the inclement weather caused by Enteng and intensified southwest monsoon.

Guico’s order also said that “the suspension of work in public and private offices shall be left to the discretion of the local chief executives or company management.”

River systems in the province were also being closely monitored, while the current water level in San Roque Dam is 254.47 meters above sea level (masl) as of Wednesday. No gates were opened as the current level is still way below the dam’s 280 masl spilling level.

In Baguio City, the local government logged no casualties during Enteng even as the city was also battered by heavy rains since Sunday. Even the city’s disaster risk management office noted that there were no evacuations of residents living along low-lying areas that were perennially flooded during continuous rains.

Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong suspended classes from kinder to elementary on Wednesday as monsoon rains continued in the city.

Local government units in the Cordillera Region – Tubo, in Abra; Atok, Bakun, Bokod, Benguet, Itgogon, Kabayan, Kibungan and La Trinidad, Benguet – also opted to declare class suspensions from kinder to senior high school as occasional strong winds and rains are still being experienced.

In Bulacan, six villages in four towns were inundated under half-foot to three feet of floodwater yesterday due to Manila Bay’s rising tide, according to the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction The Philippine Coast Guard reported yesterday that 64 people

remain stranded in various ports in Southern Tagalog and Northwestern Luzon because of Enteng.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Army brought food and other basic needs to families affected by Enteng in Milaor,

Camarines Sur yesterday. – **Jose Rodel Clapano, Artemio Dumlao, Cesar Ramirez, Ric Sapnu, Ramon Efren Lazaro, Evelyn Macairan, Emmanuel Tupas**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/09/05/2383015/12-dead-7-missing-due-enteng-ndrrmc>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Enteng leaves 15 dead, 21 missing; over 500,000 people affected

By: [Dempsey Reyes](#), [Nestor Corrales](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:40 AM September 05, 2024



ANTIPOLO RESCUE OPS Rescuers and residents in Sitio Banaba, Barangay San Luis, Antipolo City, put their hopes on a taut rope as they search for three people who went missing in a landslide caused by Enteng. The effects of the tropical storm are still being felt at an Antipolo shelter and in Tondo, Manila, (insets) as of Tuesday. —Niño Jesus Orbeta and Richard A. Reyes

MANILA, Philippines — The death toll due to Typhoon Enteng (international name: Yagi) has reached 15 while 21 individuals remain missing, the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) said on Wednesday.

Cesar Idio, OCD operations service director, told President Marcos at a briefing in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, that 15 people were also injured.

Eight of the fatalities were from Rizal, two each from Cebu City, Northern Samar, and Naga City; and one in Negros Occidental, Idio said.

Most of the deaths were due to landslides and drowning, with no other details provided.

Enteng exited the Philippine area of responsibility on early Wednesday morning as it developed into a typhoon, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

It was last spotted 450 kilometers west northwest of Laoag City heading for China with maximum sustained winds of 140 km per hour.

Pagasa weather specialist Veronica Torres said there were no low pressure areas or other weather disturbances that may soon affect the country.

Data from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) on Wednesday said 547,029 individuals in Metro Manila and six other regions were affected by Enteng, adding that 50,076 individuals were staying in 323 evacuation centers across the country.

Bicol Region had the highest number of affected individuals at 181,506 while Metro Manila had 74,030.

P350-M agricultural damage

The damage to infrastructure, according to the agency, remained at P200,000, saying that 538 houses were “partially destroyed” while 51 were “totally destroyed.”

There was no NDRRMC data on the damage to agriculture, but the Department of Agriculture said Enteng has so far caused P350.85 million worth of damage.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development also reported that it has distributed over P16 million in aid to 303,938 affected individuals in Cagayan Valley; Central Luzon; Bicol Region; Western, Central and Eastern Visayas; Calabarzon; and Metro Manila.

The Government Service Insurance System, meanwhile, said it would extend its emergency loan program to offer financial aid to members and pensioners in typhoon-hit areas.

This extension will take effect once it receives the list of areas officially declared as under a state of calamity. —*with reports from Kathleen de Villa, Tyrone Jasper C. Piad and Mariedel Irish U. Catilogo*

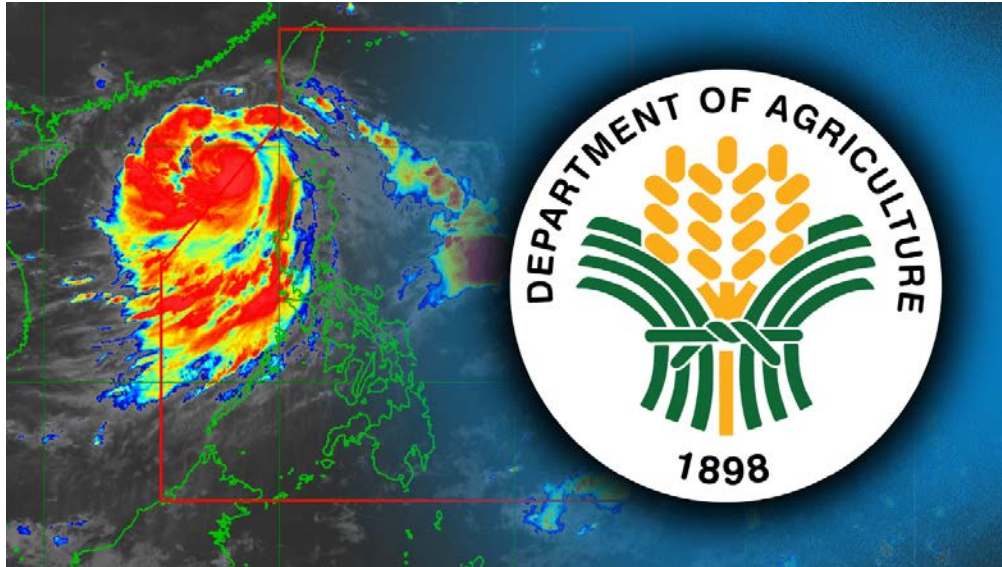
<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1980168/enteng-leaves-15-dead-21-missing-over-500000-people-affected>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Initial agri damage due to Enteng estimated at P350.85 million – DA

By: [Jordeene B. Lagare @jordeenelagare](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 08:42 AM September 04, 2024



INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

The country's farm losses due to Tropical Storm Enteng (international name: Yagi) is pegged at P350.85 million, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said.

In its bulletin issued on Wednesday, the DA said the weather disturbance affected 13,623 farmers and fishers, based on its initial assessment of regional field offices, particularly in Bicol.

The volume of production loss was estimated at 14,814 metric tons spanning 8,893 hectares.

Rice was mostly affected by Enteng, sustaining P333.08 million in damage.

Corn (P14.01 million) and high-value crops (P3.76 million) incurred losses as well.

“Best possible efforts are being undertaken to carry out assistance and appropriate interventions to the affected farmers,” the DA said.

The agency will provide P202.86 million worth of seeds, bio-control measures and farm tools through its regional offices.

Those affected may secure funding from the Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Program of the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) with loanable amounts of up to P25,000 per farmer payable in three years at zero interest.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC) is prepared to indemnify insured affected farmers.

<https://business.inquirer.net/478067/initial-agri-damage-due-to-enteng-estimated-at-p350-85-million-da>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

In Bicol, ‘Enteng’ agri losses breach P350M

By: [Jordeene B. Lagare](#), [Michael B. Jaucian](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:06 AM September 05, 2024



CANAL CLEARING A farmer in Magarao, Camarines Sur province, clears assorted debris along irrigation canals after Tropical Storm Enteng (international name: Yagi) hit parts of Bicol and Eastern Visayas regions on Sunday. The National Irrigation Administration in Bicol has started cleanup activities to prevent clogging and ensure water flow in its canals. —Photo courtesy of NIA Region V

LIGAO CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — Tropical Storm Enteng (international name: Yagi) left over P350-million worth of agriculture losses in Bicol as widespread flooding caused by heavy rains submerged farmlands in the region on Sunday.

Lovella Guarin, Department of Agriculture Bicol information officer, told the Inquirer in a private message on Wednesday that 13,623 farmers and fisherfolk in the region had been affected by the storm, with production losses estimated at 14,814 metric tons (MT) spanning 8,893 hectares of land planted to rice and vegetables.

“We will provide all resources (to affected farmers). The buffer stock of seeds for rice, corn and vegetables is always ready and available. Farmers need to report their losses to municipal agriculture offices,” Guarin said.

She said Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. could assist farmers through crop insurance claims.

Rice was mostly affected by Enteng, comprising 94.93 percent or P333.08 million of the total damage. It wiped out 13,887 MT of rice produce covering 8,513 hectares of land, mostly in reproductive and maturity stages.

Corn (P14.01 million) and high-value crops (P3.76 million) incurred losses as well. Among farmlands damaged by the storm were planted to eggplant, squash, ampalaya, okra, pole sitao, tomato, hot pepper, bottle gourd, pechay and cucumber.

According to Gaudencio de Vera, regional manager of the National Irrigation Administration regional office, clearing and desilting work for irrigation canals is in progress to prevent disruption of water flow after the storm.

Before Enteng entered the country, the agriculture sector posted P4.73 billion in losses last month due to the combined effects of the southwest monsoon (habagat) and Supertyphoon Carina (international name: Gaemi).

Moreover, the extreme heat and lack of rain caused by the El Niño phenomenon resulted in the sector recording losses worth P9.89 billion in June.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1980099/in-bicol-enteng-agri-losses-breach-p350m>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

PH agri trade deficit widened in Q2

By: [Jordeene B. Lagare @jordeenelagare](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 08:20 AM September 04, 2024



PLANTING SEASON A farmer uses a hand tractor to prepare a rice paddy for planting palay in Pulilan, Bulacan, on Aug. 8. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

The country's agricultural trade deficit widened in the second quarter as importation of farm goods continued to overwhelm local production.

The difference between Philippine imports and exports of farm goods rose by 13.8 percent to \$3.07 billion in the April to June period from \$2.7 billion a year prior.

Agricultural imports grew by 14.1 percent to \$4.94 billion while agricultural exports reached \$1.86 billion, rising by 14.7 percent from the past year.

This brought the overall agricultural trade to \$6.8 billion during the reference period, up 13.8 percent.

Roy Kempis, a retired professor at the Pampanga State Agricultural University, said the growth of exports was trailing behind imports due to challenges in the global market.

“The rest of the world seems slow in acquiring Philippine agricultural export products. Then the US is not even mentioned in the PSA (Philippine Statistics Authority) report. For the Philippines, the doors to these markets appear to be a challenge,” Kempis said.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. chief economist Michael Ricafort said the latest figures were “partly attributed to lower base/denominator effects and as the economy reopens further towards greater normalcy with no more COVID restrictions” since July last year.

“Higher agricultural imports and exports could also reflect some pickup in global commodity prices during the period due to the El Niño drought/heatwave that reduced output and increased world prices of rice and other food/agricultural commodities,” Ricafort said.

Among major commodity groups, cereals topped the list of agricultural imports with a share of 26 percent or \$1.28 billion of the total.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) shipped \$1.86 billion, with Vietnam emerging as the leading supplier of imported goods.

European Union (EU) countries, primarily Spain, supplied \$450.29 million worth of agricultural produce. The country exported mostly edible fruit and nuts, peel of citrus fruit or melons, equivalent to a share of 29.2 percent or \$543.62 million.

Exports to Asean countries amounted to \$227.24 million, with Malaysia as the leading destination of agricultural commodities.

The shipment of food items to European nations stood at \$358.93 million, primarily delivered to the Netherlands. Ricafort said reducing duties on imported rice could encourage more imports of the staple food, also to preemptively increase local supply to prepare for La Niña phenomenon later this year.

“For the coming months, risk of La Niña would be a consideration in terms of storm/flood damage that could cause some disruptions and crop and other agricultural damage,” he added.

Kempis said the focus should shift to increasing the production of animal and vegetable oils, as well as edible fruits and nuts, to boost exports.

He added this should become the “top priority” and make the rest of agricultural goods “secondary as far as exportable agricultural goods are concerned.”

<https://business.inquirer.net/478061/ph-agri-trade-deficit-widened-in-q2>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Next sugar crop reserved entirely for domestic market due to weak harvest

September 4, 2024 | 8:12 pm



THE SUGAR Regulatory Administration (SRA) said it is planning to allocate the entire incoming sugar crop for domestic use due to an expected drop in production.

In a draft sugar order, the regulator said all sugar in the incoming crop year will be classified “B” or reserved for domestic use.

“It’s based on the effect of El Niño on the crop that was just planted in October last year until May. We feel that there will be a decline, and then it will recover towards the end,” SRA Administrator Pablo Luis S. Azcona told reporters on Wednesday.

Based on the SRA’s initial estimates, raw sugar production could drop to 1.78 million metric tons (MMT) for the 2024-2025 crop year, against the 1.92 MMT actual output for the 2023-2024 crop year.

During the second quarter, cane production dropped 42.3% year on year to 1.63 MMT, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority, making sugar the most affected single crop during the period.

“So far, based on our estimates of the crop and the actual stock on hand and our imports that are arriving, our supply is probably enough until the end of milling... by May or June 2025,” Mr. Azcona added.

Earlier, the regulator approved imports of up to 240,000 MT of refined sugar. About 176,000 MT will fill any supply gaps that may emerge during the milling off season.

“The public is assured that our sugar supply is stable. We can import what we lack; all that is balanced and calibrated,” he said.

He added that imported sugar may start arriving next week.

Asked to comment, Manuel R. Lamata, president of the United Sugar Producers Federation of the Philippines, said the approved volume of sugar imports could be sufficient to cover any shortfalls in production.

“Because of the bad El Niño we had, production will not be good. Nothing to worry about in terms of supply; the SRA has anticipated such a situation by approving imports of 200,000 plus of refined sugar — more than enough to cover the shortfall,” Mr. Lamata said via Viber.

The national inventory of raw sugar was 227,779 MT, while refined sugar stocks totaled 487,268 MT, according to SRA estimates as of Aug. 4. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/09/04/618399/next-sugar-crop-reserved-entirely-for-domestic-market-due-to-weak-harvest/>

Enteng agri damage hits P350M

By Rhaydz B. Barcia
September 5, 2024

LEGAZPI CITY — The Department of Agriculture (DA) in Bicol said that Tropical Storm Enteng left over P350 million in initial damages on agriculture and affected 13,623 farmers and fishermen across the region.

Lovella Guarin, DA regional spokesman, told The Manila Times that 8,893 hectares of agricultural land planted with rice, vegetables and other agricultural crops were destroyed by the weather disturbance.

She said that at least 13,623 farmers and fishermen in the region have been affected in the initial report sent to their office by various local government units (LGUs).

Guarin said that 94.93 percent of palay (unmilled rice) plantations were affected; corn, 4 percent; and high-valued crops, 1.07 percent, with 14,814 metric tons production loss or equivalent of P350.85 million loses.

Out of 8,893 hectares planted with palay, corn and high-valued crops, 5,795 hectares, or 65.18 percent, with chance of recovery while 3,096 hectares, or 34.82 percent, without chance of recovery.

Among the six provinces of Bicol, Camarines Sur and Albay are badly affected. Camarines Sur is the rice granary of Bicol Region followed by Albay province.

In Camarines Sur, at least 8,513 hectares planted with rice are affected. Out of 8,513 hectares, 5,435 hectares or 63.85 percent were partially

damaged, and 3,078 hectares or 36.15 percent were totally damaged with 13,887 MT volume losses or equivalent of P333.08 million.

Guarin said that most of the damages and loss on rice are in reproductive and maturity stages. For corn, at least 361 hectares were partially damaged with 739 MT production loss or equivalent of P14.01 million covering Albay and Camarines Sur. Most of the damaged corn is in vegetative and reproductive stages.

In Albay province, the Albay Provincial Agriculture Office (APAO) reported an initial damage on agriculture covering 104 hectares of palay due to flooding brought by Enteng.

Based on APAO's report, 6 hectares were totally damaged, while 98 hectares of rice fields were partially damaged. The hardly affected riceland plantations are located in the towns of Tiwi, Camalig and Daraga, and in the cities of Legazpi and Tabaco.

The estimated damages on agriculture in Albay province based on APAO's Damage Assessment Report is more than P1.6 million.

Guarin said that the damages will still increase as they are still awaiting from the reports of various LGUs affected by Enteng.

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in Bicol reported that a total of 44,013 families or 181,506 people are affected by the weather disturbance.

As of Tuesday, 4,391 families or 12,653 people are still in evacuation centers. At least 1,009 families or 3,943 people are inside the 112 evacuation centers, while 3,382 families or 8,710 people are outside evacuation centers.

A total of 35 cities and municipalities reported 296 related incidents. At least 34 cities/municipalities reported 290 flooding incidents; 116

areas/barangay are still reported as flooded; 16 are receding, while 158 have subsided.

The Naga City police reported two deaths, including a 57-year-old male from Naga City accidentally electrocuted during the height of flooding on September 1 while fixing his shop; and an 8-month-old baby girl from Naga City that drowned in their home on Monday.

A 15-year-old male from Naga City was injured after he was accidentally electrocuted after passing through the same shop, where the 57-year-old male succumbed to death due to electrocution.

The OCD Bicol also reported a total of 546 houses were damaged by the weather disturbance in Masbate and Camarines Norte, 39 of which are totally damaged while 507 are partially damaged.

The 546 houses were damaged by floods, rain-induced landslides and fallen trees.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) regional office reported that a total of P26,812,998.86 worth of family food packs and nonfood items were distributed to the affected families.

Similarly, a total of P673,361.50 worth of packed hot meals was provided by the LGU. To date, the overall humanitarian assistance given by DSWD Bicol totaled to P27,486,360.36.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/05/regions/enteng-agri-damage-hits-p350m/1969121>

Negros Occidental pushes swine recovery

By Eugene Y. Adiong
September 5, 2024

BACOLOD CITY — The Negros Occidental provincial government distributed 10 heads of boar and six heads of gilt worth P370,000 on Tuesday, as part of the Provincial Swine Industry Recovery Initiatives.

Gov. Eugenio Jose Lacson said the hogs are in support of the ongoing hog repopulation after raisers lost thousands of pigs to African swine fever (ASF) and other transboundary diseases last year.

The boars were worth P250,000 while the gilts were valued at P120,000.



SWINE REPOPULATION EFFORT Negros Occidental Gov. Eugenio Jose Lacson (4th from right) is shown here with local hog breeders after the provincial government distributed 10 heads of boar and six heads of gilt worth P370,000 on Sept. 3, 2024, as part of its Provincial Swine Industry Recovery Initiatives. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

They were released to individual hog raisers, associations and local government units (LGUs).

"We are distributing animals to recover from the disaster the ASF brought to our province. We're also closely monitoring the developments on the ASF vaccine," Lacson said.

The dispersed breeder swine were produced at the breeding and technology demonstration farm facility at the Negros First Ranch in Murcia town.

According to the Provincial Veterinary Office, using boars promotes artificial insemination as a breeding method over natural mating to accelerate productivity and prevent the spread of diseases such as ASF and hog cholera.

In June this year, the provincial government initially distributed locally produced 10 boars and gilts for the first time since the massive hog deaths in 2023 that affected almost 18,000 pigs in 20 LGUs across the province.

Aside from breeder swine, also dispersed on Tuesday were 12 heads of cattle worth P216,000; 800 heads of free-range chick, P48,000; 48 heads of duck, P24,000; and five heads of sheep, P90,000.

The animals were produced at the Provincial Livestock Breeding Center and Dairy Farm in La Carlota City.

In 2023, Negros Occidental, which has a P6-billion swine industry, recorded almost 18,000 hog mortalities in 20 LGUs, mainly due to ASF and hog cholera.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/05/regions/negros-occidental-pushes-swine-recovery/1969120>

SRA sees lower sugar output due to El Niño

By Janine Alexis Miguel
September 5, 2024

RAW sugar production is projected to drop in crop year 2024-2025 due to the effects of El Niño, the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) said.

The output is anticipated to decline to 1.782 million metric tons (MT) from the previous year's 1.922 million MT, the SRA disclosed in its first sugar policy for the crop year.

Total domestic raw sugar withdrawal is estimated at 2.20 million MT.

To address the shortfall in supply, the SRA has mandated that all sugar produced will be allocated solely for local consumption, with 100 percent of production designated as "B" or domestic market sugar.

"If we need to boost our supply with an importation, it will depend on our actual stocks. We don't plan imports based on estimates and projections," SRA Administrator Pablo Luis Azcona said on Wednesday, noting that the figures are just the initial estimate for the crop year's production.

Azcona said that the SRA typically provides three projections on raw sugar output throughout the year.

The SRA also assured the country's current sugar supply is sufficient until the end of the milling season in May or June 2025.

"Our sugar supply has been stable throughout the 2023-2024 crop year, and we are also prepared for 2024-2025," Azcona said, adding this has contributed to maintaining lower retail prices of the commodity.

The first sugar policy, which Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has approved, will take effect in September in response to expected production gaps due to the prolonged effects of El Niño.

To streamline the distribution process, the SRA has issued new guidelines for the issuance of quedan-permits and molasses storage certificates. Sugar mill companies will be responsible for issuing these permits on a weekly basis, either in the name of individual planters or associations, or cooperatives.

The SRA will also conduct periodic assessments for the whole crop year to monitor production and withdrawal trends that will be the basis of adjustments to the allocation and distribution of sugar.

Azcona said the sugar policy aims to ensure the domestic sugar market remains stable and fair for both producers and consumers.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/05/business/top-business/sra-sees-lower-sugar-output-due-to-el-nio/1969063>

THE MANILA TIMES

La Union receives P48.7-M agri assistance

By [Leander C. Domingo](#)
September 5, 2024

FARMERS cooperatives and associations (FCAs) in La Union received more than P48.7 million worth of assistance in the form of machines, seeds and various farm inputs.

The assistance was distributed in Barangay Sapilang in Bacnotan on August 30 and included hand tractors with accessories, rice combine harvesters, four-wheel-drive tractors, pump and engine sets, multi-cultivators, knapsack sprayers, plastic crates, power sprayers, drums and solar-powered irrigation systems.

Funded under various banner programs and special projects of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 1 (DA-RFO1), the assistance also included hybrid rice seeds for the dry season of 2024-2025, vegetable seeds and livestock feed, among others.



Photo shows part of the assistance distributed to farmers in Barangay Sapilang in Bacnotan, La Union, on Aug. 30, 2024. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

According to the DA-RFO1, the distribution was conducted in two batches. In the first batch, 20 FCAs and 11 local government units (LGUs) from La Union's second district received interventions worth P27.032 million.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/05/business/agribusiness/la-union-receives-p487-m-agri-assistance/1969037>

Drones impress Maguindanao farmers

By Conrad M. Cariño

September 5, 2024

RICE farmers in Maguindanao were impressed by the efficiency and precision of the drone seeder that was demonstrated at a PalaySikatan site in Datu Odin Sinsuat on August 31.

"I was amazed! It's beyond my expectation that it can broadcast seed over 1 hectare (ha) in just 15 minutes. It's time-saving and reduces production costs for labor and seed," said 32-year-old farmer Norly Odin.

"We thought drones were only for military use. Now, my perspective has changed. Technological innovation is an opportunity to meet our needs," he added.

This event, which was part of the PalaySikatan 2.0 initiative under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund Program (RCEF), showcased not only the drone seeder but also other advanced technologies such as the drum seeder and spread seeder.

The machines were demonstrated to 170 farmers and representatives from RCEF implementing agencies and other stakeholders, with 50 ha being planted with NSIC Rc 160 using the mechanized methods.

According to the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice), the use of drones in agriculture is becoming increasingly prevalent, serving various tasks such as seeding, fertilizer application and pest management, all of which contribute to the overall efficiency and productivity of farming operations.

"For instance, drone seeding, which can be completed in just 15 minutes per hectare, significantly reduces labor costs and ensures more precise seed distribution," DA-PhilRice said.

Drones are also employed for crop health monitoring, irrigation planning and damage assessment, providing real-time data that optimizes resource management.

"This technology is part of a broader push toward precision agriculture, a movement aimed at making farming more sustainable and cost-effective across the Philippines," DA-PhilRice added.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao was instrumental in the holding of the drone demonstration event.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/05/business/agribusiness/drones-impress-maguindanao-farmers/1969035>

MMSU helps Ilocos tomato farmers

By Leander C. Domingo

September 5, 2024

To help Ilocano farmers improve their offseason tomato production, the Ilocos Norte-based Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) hosted a technology briefing at the Ilocos Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development Consortium-One Stop Information Shop on August 30.

Aimed to support local farmers in improving their tomato yield, the event drew 35 farmers from the municipalities of Burgos, Pasuquin, Vintar, Sarrat, Badoc and Pinili, along with several agricultural extension workers.

Marilou Lucas, MMSU director of the extension directorate, emphasized the importance of adopting new farming techniques to boost productivity and income.

"We conducted the technology briefing to help farmers embrace innovative practices that will not only improve their yield but also secure their livelihood," Lucas said.

Highlighting the commitment of MMSU to support farmers through knowledge-sharing and training programs, Lucas said this endeavor has the backing of MMSU President Shirley Agrupis, who is also an incoming Commission on Higher Education commissioner, and Nathaniel Alibuyog, MMSU vice president for research, development and innovation.

Both from the MMSU Research Directorate, Jilves Jimenez and Jonathan Ramos discussed effective methods for breeding tomatoes during the offseason. Lew Vergel Ilaga, an expert in farm management,

offered insights on maintaining accurate farm records to enhance farm operations.

Lucas said the initiative also aimed to "provide farmers with the knowledge and skills needed to improve tomato production during challenging periods."

She said that through such efforts, MMSU continues to support sustainable agriculture and boost local farming productivity.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/05/business/agribusiness/mmsu-helps-ilocos-tomato-farmers/1969029>

PH eyes pre-shipment inspection of fishery products

By The Manila Times
September 5, 2024

Exporters of fishery and marine products must comply with varying certifications or requirements for their merchandise depending on the importing country, as the Philippines aims to conduct pre-shipment inspection on a risk-based basis.

Dennis de Vera, officer in charge of the Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Division of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), said that although BFAR Fisheries Administrative Order 210, Series of 2001 requires a mandatory pre-shipment inspection, they are amending the regulation to have such inspection prior to the export of fish and fishery products be conducted in a risk-based manner.

"There are different parameters in which the exporter will be evaluated. So these include the type of the product that they will export, the country that they will export to, the history as an exporter, among others," he said partly in Filipino during the recent Usapang Exports organized by the Department of Trade and Industry Export Marketing Bureau.

De Vera said pre-shipment inspection is the first stage in the process flow for export, followed by securing health certificate and export commodity clearance (ECC).

He said the health certificate is a written guarantee issued by the BFAR, which attests that the fish products were handled and packed in hygienic

manner, and these do not pose hazards that endanger the health of human, animal or plant type.

"This document is very important because it serves us in a way, this is our clearance in the importing country," he added.

De Vera said pre-shipment inspection, health certificate and ECC are requirements the exporters need to comply with when securing different certifications.

"Different countries require different regulations or compliances although in general, countries such as Korea, Vietnam, China, EU (European Union), the US (United States), one of the common requirements that they require is the BFAR-approved HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) plan of our exporters," he added.

In 2023, de Vera said China accounted for 22 percent of the country's export of fish and fishery/aquatic products, followed by Vietnam at 17 percent, US at 13 percent and Japan at 12 percent. Some countries in the EU and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations also import marine products from the Philippines.

"Majority of our exports are tuna products that account for almost 50 percent of our exports and some others account for a minimal percentage," he said, referring to Asian swamp eel, fish meal and grouper, among others. De Vera said the agency is also gearing toward the digitalization of its services.

"At last, we are currently developing an online system for the application of ECC and form for local transport," he said.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/05/business/agribusiness/ph-eyes-pre-shipment-inspection-of-fishery-products/1969028>

Palay loss hits 386,960 MT; ‘Enteng’ infra damage at P108M

September 5, 2024

By JED MACAPAGAL and MYLA IGLESIAS

Palay production loss since the start of the year amounted to 386,960.34 metric tons (MT) bulk of which caused by El Niño at 330,717.09 MT, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said yesterday.

This developed as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) yesterday estimated the partial cost of damage on roads and bridges due to typhoon “Enteng” at P108.5 million.

DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa, said in an interview yesterday the country on average, loses 500,000 to 600,000 MT annually from typhoons.

DA said because of the effects of both El Niño and La Niña, this year’s figures may breach the average yearly palay losses.

Some 20,735.77 MT of palay were lost due to the combined effects of shearling, northeast monsoon and trough of low pressure area; 2,991.74 MT from typhoon Aghon; and 18,628.79 MT from the combined effects of southwest monsoon and typhoon Carina.

DA said the total figure is expected to climb further as the remaining 13,886.95 MT was due to tropical storm Enteng.

Meanwhile, the DPWH’s Bureau of Maintenance in a statement yesterday said of the P108.5 million damage, public infrastructure accounted for P54.26 million; roads, P35.58 million; bridges, P11.63 million and; flood control, P7.02 million on flood control.

As of the morning of September 4, DPWH reported that a road section in Isabela province is affected — the Cabagan-Sta. Maria Bridge along Cabagan-Sta. Maria Road, connecting Barangay Casibarag Norte, Cabagan, and Barangay Mozzozzin, Sta. Maria. The bridge is impassable due to high water elevation of 1.2 meters.

Meanwhile, the Mountain Province Cagayan via Tabuk-Enrile Road in Tabrak, Anabel, Sadanga, Mt. Province has limited access and is only passable to light vehicles due to rock/slope collapse.

On September 3, DPWH has mobilized its Disaster and Incident Management Teams across the affected regional and district engineering offices, prepositioning 1,731 pieces of equipment and 7,105 personnel.

DPWH Quick Response Teams have installed warning signs and traffic devices along the affected road sections.

A total of nine road sections have been cleared and reopened by DPWH since September 2 in the Cordillera Administrative Region, Cagayan Valley, Calabarzon, Bicol Region and Eastern Visayas.

In another development, Globe Telecom Inc. has fully restored its mobile services in provinces affected by Typhoon Enteng, according to

Yoly Crisanto, chief sustainability and corporate communications officer, in a statement released on Wednesday.

The company has reached 100 percent restoration of its call, text and data services in Albay, Batangas, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Cavite, Laguna, Marinduque, Masbate, Quezon and Sorsogon, as of 6:27 p.m. on September 3

https://malaya.com.ph/news_business/palay-loss-hits-386960-mt-enteng-infra-damage-at-p108m/

DA chief flags challenges putting PHL tuna at risk

[Ada Pelonia](#)
[September 5, 2024](#)



Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

AGRICULTURE Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. stressed the need to confront significant challenges that threaten tuna stocks such as climate change, overfishing, and illegal fishing practices.

According to the agriculture chief, climate change affects stock distribution and fishing efficiency, while overfishing, resource depletion, and illegal fishing threaten the country's tuna resources.

“The success of the Philippine tuna industry is a testament to our collective efforts and cooperation, our friendly and constructive competition,” Laurel said. “We must enhance our industry’s competitiveness and resilience to navigate these challenges,” he added.

Laurel also underscored the important role played by the tuna industry in generating investments, creating jobs and ensuring the country's food security at the start of the 24th National Tuna Congress and Trade Exhibit in General Santos City, hailed as the tuna capital of the Philippines.

Strengthening the industry

MEANWHILE, Laurel detailed several key initiatives aimed at strengthening the industry. These include the adoption of a National Tuna Management Plan on sustainable management and combating illegal fishing activities which was introduced in 2018.

It also includes the reconstitution of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Technical Working Group on Tuna Fisheries to ensure the plan's effective implementation.

He said the government's strategy to support the industry also comprises the Fisheries Management Areas initiative, which is designed to improve fish stock distribution and address overfishing.

The National Payao Program and the Lambaklad Program would provide technical support and financial assistance to enhance fishing practices and increase incomes for local fisherfolk while the establishment of the Tuna Conservation and Management Zones would protect tuna resources by regulating fishing and safeguarding spawning grounds.

Laurel also drew attention to the Philippine Rise Special Fisheries Management Area, an under-explored area awarded as Philippine territory that promises significant potential for future industry growth.

"This region is seen as crucial for enhancing local fishing and contributing to national food security," the DA said.

International scene

ACCORDING to the department, the Philippines is one of the top global tuna producers in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

Tuna is a top export commodity, accounting for an average of 479.7 million metric tons (MT), or 11 percent of the country's total fisheries production. The average tuna export of the country over the last five years stood at 107,608 MT.

It also noted that the global tuna market was valued at around \$42 billion in 2023.

Laurel wants to push capacity utilization of various tuna canneries in the country to create more jobs, entice new investments, and help ensure food security in the country.

International research and consulting firm 6Wresearch recently projected the Philippine tuna market size to grow by a compounded annual growth rate of 6.24 percent between this year and 2030 due to increasing global demand for seafood, heightened awareness of health benefits associated with fish consumption, and a thriving canned tuna industry.

“Market trends are shifting towards ecolabeled and sustainably sourced products as consumers become more environmentally conscious,” 6Wresearch noted.

The National Tuna Congress aims to provide a platform to share knowledge and experiences among stakeholders on advances in science and on addressing emerging challenges in tuna production. These include the conservation and management of the highly migratory tuna stocks to ensure the sustainable growth of the Philippine tuna industry.

“The DA remains committed to supporting innovation and investment to ensure the sector's resilience and continued success,” the department quoted Laurel saying.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/05/da-chief-flags-challenges-putting-phl-tuna-at-risk/>

Farm damage from El Niño, storms now at P23B—DA

Ada Pelonia
September 5, 2024



Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa

THE damage sustained by the agriculture sector due to the combined effects of El Niño and the recent weather disturbances has reached P23 billion, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Briefing reporters on Wednesday, Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa listed the calamities that have visited the country as the “El Niño, shearline, northeast

monsoon, LPA [low-pressure areas], Aghon, Carina, Enteng...since January until September.”

According to de Mesa, rice bore the brunt of these weather disturbances, with damage at 373,073 metric tons (MT), which was near the annual average losses of 500,000 to 600,00 MT.

He said this has not even factored in the “effects of La Niña,” so that, he explained, it is fair to presume that the “normal average annual losses because of typhoons every year” will be breached.

De Mesa explained that this could affect the country’s unmilled rice output for 2024.

“May epekto ito dito sa attainment natin ng target for the year kasi September nasa [almost] 400,000 MT losses ka na [This has an impact on our attaining our target for the year, because this September we already have nearly 400,000 MT losses],” he said.

“This year, we have El Niño [and] we have La Niña. So, [it is] expected [that the] losses talaga medyo mataas [will really increase].”

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. recently adjusted downward the country’s projected palay production for 2024 to 20.1 MMT from the initial projection of 20.44 MMT.

“Since we were affected by El Niño this year and with the upcoming La Niña for the second semester, we’re hoping for parity with last year’s,” Laurel said in a mix of English and Filipino during the budget hearing of the Committee on Appropriations.

“I don’t want to overpromise. I’m expecting there would be one to two strong typhoons that will enter the country, so I have to be more conservative in my estimates.”

Meanwhile, the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) earlier said the country’s palay output for this year could post flat growth compared to last year’s record harvest, especially if more natural calamities will strike the Philippines in the remaining months of the year.

“It is possible...that [rice] production will not register an increase compared with last year’s output,” PhilRice Deputy Executive Director Flordeliza Bordey told reporters. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/26/phl-unmilled-rice-output-seen-flat-this-year/>)

“It’s also possible that output may not reach the level recorded in 2023 if the Philippines will be hit by more natural calamities.”

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed that palay or unmilled rice production in 2023 reached a record 20.06 million metric tons (MMT). The figure is 1.56 percent higher than the 19.76 MMT recorded in 2022.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/05/farm-damage-from-el-nino-storms-now-at-p23b-da/>

Groups: Rice tariffs not cause for price decline

Ada Pelonia
September 5, 2024

AGRICULTURAL groups weighed in on the expected decline of rice prices by October as traders exhaust the inventory of imported staple bought at higher tariffs.

The existing inventory of imported staple bought prior to lowering of tariffs was one of the reasons cited by Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. for rice prices to remain elevated.

Laurel said rice imports from the January-to-June period that were still levied with the 35-percent tariff would run out by mid-October. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/30/da-explains-why-rice-prices-stay-high-despite-low-tariffs/>)

The agriculture secretary also pointed to high world prices as another reason for the elevated prices of the grain.

However, Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. (PCAFI) President Danilo V. Fausto told the BusinessMirror “it is possible that price of rice will go down around October.”

Fausto said that, for the most part, the easing of high rice prices would be due to the sector’s output.

“Principally this [decline in rice prices] is because this [period is] the peak of palay harvest for the wet season,” he added.

Likewise, Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (Sinag) Executive Director Jayson Cainglet said that rice prices would not significantly decline through tariff reduction and volume of rice imports.

Cainglet also noted that Vietnam's rice export prices are now higher than that of Thailand's by \$15 per metric ton (MT) for 5 percent broken and by \$28 per MT for 25 percent broken. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) adjusted downward its estimate of the Philippines's rice imports this year on the back of slowing purchases of Vietnam rice.

The USDA earlier said that the country's rice imports this year could reach 4.6 million metric tons (MMT), lower than its previous forecast of 4.7 million metric tons (MMT).

“With the price quote spread narrowing, Vietnam jumped \$7 to \$559 per ton, while Thai increased slightly by \$2 to \$573 per ton with only limited demand from Indonesia and the Philippines,” the USDA report read.

According to Cainglet, the efforts of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and its attached agencies to lower rice prices “validates our position that we do not need to reduce tariffs to decrease rice prices.”

“Pwede naman bumaba if strategic ang government intervention [in] production and post production and marketing,” Cainglet told the BusinessMirror.

The DA has launched programs that allowed the vulnerable sectors and local consumers to purchase cheaper rice at Kadiwa sites, such as the P29 and Rice-for-All program that sold well-milled rice at P45 per kilo.

Based on the DA's latest price monitoring, the prevailing price of local well-milled and regular milled rice in Metro Manila markets was P50 per kilo and P48 per kilo, respectively.

The prevailing price of imported well-milled and regular milled rice was P49 per kilo and P46 per kilo, respectively.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/05/groups-rice-tariffs-not-cause-for-price-decline/>

PHL raw sugar output to fall by 7.29%— SRA

Ada Pelonia
September 5, 2024

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) expects raw sugar production in the current crop year to decline as El Niño scorched local farms.

Sugar Order (SO) 1 issued by the SRA Board indicated that raw sugar output in crop year (CY) 2024-2025 will drop by 7.29 percent to 1.78 million metric tons (MMT) from the previous year's 1.92 MMT. CY 2024-2025 started last September 1.

“[The projection] is based on the effect of El Niño on standing crops—those that were planted from October 2023 to May this year,” SRA Administrator Pablo Luis Azcona told reporters on Wednesday.

SO 1 said the production estimate for the current crop year was due to the anticipated negative effect of the prolonged dry spell, “unless the La Niña phenomenon brings about an increase in production.”

Azcona said the arrival of La Niña would “more or less” coincide with the period when sugarcane crops are expected to mature.

“It will increase tonnage and hopefully, this will result in longer canes because there is sufficient water.”

The sugar policy for CY 2024-2025 also mandated the classification of the entire output for the current crop year as “B” or for the domestic market.

Domestic raw sugar withdrawal, according to SO 1, would reach 2.2 MMT.

Despite the bleak production outlook for the current crop year, the SRA made an assurance that the Philippines has enough supply of sugar until the second quarter of 2025.

“Based on our estimates, including the actual stock on hand and the imports that will arrive, we will have enough sugar possibly until the end of the milling season in May or June 2025,” said Azcona.

The SRA recently authorized the importation of 240,000 metric tons (MT) of refined sugar to beef up domestic supply. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/12/sra-clears-240k-mt-sugar-imports-to-boost-local-supply/>)

Under SO 5, eligible participants for the importation program have been split into two. A maximum volume of 176,500 MT of refined sugar would be eligible for importers qualified under SO 2, while 63,500 MT would be eligible for those qualified under SO 3.

Azcona said the majority of the import volume was based on SO 2, “which was the voluntary purchase of farmer sugar to be classified as reserve to avail of allocation for future import program.”

“This is the first time where possible importers had to support the local farmers first in order to be eligible to join the program,” Azcona told the BusinessMirror.

“In the past administrations, importers were chosen subjectively, whether first come first served, or others, with volumes based on the decision of the SRA admin and/or SRA board.”

The SRA chief said the remaining 63,500 volume import would be for the replenishment of the sugar exported to the United States.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/05/phl-raw-sugar-output-to-fall-by-7-29-sra/>

DOST-PCA study aims to identify strategies for fighting coco disease

Bless Aubrey Ogerio
September 5, 2024

A study led by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) identified 35 candidate gene primers linked to the progression of the coconut cadang-cadang viroid disease (CCCVd).

In a program review by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD), Project Leader Maria Czet A. Fulleros presented the findings of the study titled “Transcriptomic Analysis of Healthy and Cadang-cadang-infected Coconut Palms,” which will help pinpoint genes involved in CCCVd tolerance or resistance.

The cadang-cadang viroid—first identified in the Philippines and causing leaf yellowing, reduced nut production and eventual palm death—endangers the country’s coconut industry, a critical contributor to agricultural gross value added and a vital income source for over 2.5 million farmers.

A 2012–2013 survey by PCA revealed 691,068 infected coconut palms, with projections estimating that up to 3 million palms could be at risk by 2032 if no intervention is taken. The potential loss is valued at \$300 million given the economic importance of each bearing palm.

To combat this threat, DOST and PCA are also exploring advanced biotechnology. Dr. Cristeta A. Cueto, leading another project under the program, is investigating antisense technology, a genetic tool that could induce resistance in coconut palms against the viroid.

“The outputs of the program will aid in establishing a strong foundation for future coconut breeding initiatives and genetic analysis,” DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr. said.

“This may lead to more strategic methods, including the development of quality CCCVd-tolerant/resistant coconut planting materials to mitigate the risks of the CCCVd disease, eventually boosting coconut farm productivity and farmers’ income.”

DOST-PCAARRD’s Crops Research Division has been actively supporting the PCA-Albay Research Center as it enters its second year of implementation. The division also assisted in preparing new research proposals to complement ongoing efforts.

The PCA reported that over 2.1 million coconut seedlings were planted in 2023, with plans to plant at least 8.5 million more this year as part of the Massive Coconut Planting and Replanting Project. This initiative aligns with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s goal of planting 100 million coconut trees by 2028.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/05/dost-pca-study-aims-to-identify-strategies-for-fighting-coco-disease/>

Raw sugar extends gains as Brazil fires deepen global deficit

BusinessMirror
September 4, 2024

Raw sugar futures extended last week's gains as analysts raise deficit forecasts after fires in Brazil.

The most-active contract in New York rose as much as 2 percent Tuesday, after rallying more than 5 percent last week. Fires in Brazil that impacted cane crops amid the country's worst drought in four decades put the world on track for a larger-than-expected shortfall.

Damages from the fires, as well as poorer quality cane due to heat and drought, mean the country's key Center-South region is expected to produce less than expected, said Ana Zancaner, an analyst at Czarnikow. A heat wave hitting Brazil also adds to below-average rains that are damaging the cane and limiting mills' ability to produce sugar, Zancaner added.

"The sugar mix has been very disappointing," she said. "Brazilian mills added capacity to produce sugar, but the quality of the cane is not there. Mills are not able to use that additional crystallization capacity." Global sugar production could now fall short of consumption by 600,000 tons in the 2024/25 season—double an August forecast, said Claudiu Covrig, lead analyst at Covrig Analytics.

Meanwhile, robusta coffee rebounded in London, rising as much as 3.7 percent amid lingering concerns about tight supplies. Futures had hit a fresh intraday high of \$5,180 a ton last Friday, before slumping on Monday when US markets were closed.

Robusta's rally to the highest since the 1970s has also narrowed its discount to arabica, the type favored by chains like Starbucks Corp. The spread last week was at the smallest in data going back to 2008, according to figures compiled by Bloomberg. Rapeseed probe

China will start an anti-dumping probe into rapeseed imports from Canada, with trade tensions escalating after Justin Trudeau's government imposed tariffs on Chinese-made electric vehicles, steel and aluminum.

The Asian nation is initiating measures following relevant restrictive actions taken by Canada, according to a statement from the Ministry of Commerce. China will take all necessary actions to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies, the agency added.

Canada last month announced a 100-percent levy on electric cars and 25 percent on steel and aluminum, joining western allies to protect domestic manufacturers. Rapeseed is used to crush into oil for cooking and fuel and meal for feeding animals, and China is the world's second-biggest importer of the commodity.

The most actively traded rapeseed meal and rapeseed oil futures on China's Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange surged at least 6 percent on Tuesday. Canola futures in North America fell by the exchange limit in the biggest intraday loss since August 2022, on fears that lower Chinese demand could result in a glut at home.

Canola and oilseeds in general have been under pressure from world supplies that were expanding faster than demand. The move could halt Canada's canola shipments to China just as farmers were harvesting their fields.

"Everybody is a bit overwhelmed this morning," said Jerry Klassen, market analyst and commodity trader at Resilient Capital in Winnipeg, Manitoba, adding that the tariffs have yet to be confirmed. "When these things occur, it alters trade flows."

More than 90 percent of China's total rapeseed imports last year were from Canada, totaling 5.05 million tons, according to Chinese customs data. The variety of the crop grown in Canada is also known as canola. Bloomberg News

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/04/raw-sugar-extends-gains-as-brazil-fires-deepen-global-deficit/>

P350 milyong pananim nasira ni ‘Enteng’ sa Kabikolan

[Jorge Hallare](#)

September 5, 2024 | 12:00am

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay - Pumalo na sa P350-milyong piso ang halaga ng mga napinsalang pananim at iba pang agricultural commodity sa Kabikolan matapos ang pananalasa ng bagyong “Enteng.”

Sa ulat na inilabas ni Lorenzo Alvina, OIC regional technical director for research and regulations at disaster risk reduction focal person ng Department of Agriculture-Bicol, base sa inisyal na datos na nakuha ng kanilang opisina ay hindi bababa sa 8,893 ektarya ng iba’t ibang pananim lalo na ang palay kasama na ang fisheries ang nasira dahil sa paghagupit ni Enteng. Apektado nito ang aabot sa 13,623 na magsasaka at mangingisda.

Nabatid na pinakamaraming nasirang palayan ay mula sa lalawigan ng Camarines Sur. May mga naitala rin silang danyos mula sa Albay, Camarines Norte, Catanduanes at Sorsogon.

Sa kabila ng naitalang danyos, halos walang epekto umano ito sa magiging kabuuang ani sa darating na mga araw sa buong rehiyon.

Binigyang diin ni Alvina na sa kabila ng paghagupit ng bagyong Enteng, laging handa ang regional office ng Department of Agriculture sa pagtama pa ng anumang uri ng kalamidad.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2024/09/05/2382997/p350-milyong-pananim-nasira-ni-enteng-sa-kabikolan>