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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **New agri machinery cluster to boost Philippine farming—DA**

**BY [MANILA BULLETIN](#)**

Oct 9, 2024 12:47 PM

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The Department of Agriculture (DA), in partnership with the Korea Agricultural Machinery Industry Cooperative (KAMICO) and Cabanatuan City, has signed an agreement to establish the Philippines' first-ever local agricultural machinery manufacturing cluster.

In a statement, the DA said the initiative aims to revolutionize the country's agricultural sector by enhancing productivity, improving food security, and fostering economic growth.

The partnership, sealed through a memorandum and understanding, will focus on establishing an assembly line for agricultural machinery, conducting research and development to advance agricultural technology, providing comprehensive workforce training programs, and offering financial support through Official Development Assistance.

President Marcos earlier expressed strong support for this project, recognizing its potential to significantly impact the country's agricultural landscape.

He emphasized the importance of modernizing agricultural practices to boost rice production and ensure food self-sufficiency.

KAMICO, a leading organization in the Korean agricultural machinery industry, is committed to contributing its expertise and resources to the project.

By stimulating local manufacturing, promoting the use of advanced agricultural machinery, and improving crop quality, KAMICO aims to empower Filipino farmers and enhance their livelihoods.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. said the project aligns with the DA's four-year plan, "Para sa Masaganang Bagong Pilipinas," which prioritizes the modernization of agricultural production systems.

He said the partnership will play a role in accelerating the adoption of advanced agricultural technologies and strengthening the resilience of farming communities.

The signing of the MOU coincides with the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the Republic of Korea.

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Cong Lee on his way out, but AGRI Party-list to keep fighting for farmers, fishers

BY [ELLSON QUISMORIO](#)

Oct 10, 2024 00:00 AM

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## AT A GLANCE

- AGRI Party-list has vowed to continue pursuing the needs of the hardworking Filipinos in the agriculture sector.



AGRI Party-list Rep. Wilbert T. Lee (Rep.Lee's office)

AGRI Party-list has vowed to continue pursuing the needs of the hardworking Filipinos in the agriculture sector.

Outgoing AGRI Party-list Rep. Wilbert T. Lee had this to say during the group's filing of its certificate of candidacy (COC) for reelection in the May 2025 polls, even as he was setting his sights on a Senate seat.

“Marami na tayong napagtagumpayan sa laban para sa agrikultura pero marami pang hamon ang dapat tugunan. Patuloy nating isusulong ang pangangailangan ng ating mga magsasaka, mangingisda, at iba pa nating agricultural workers na silang pinagmumulan ng pagkain sa hapag-kainan ng bawat pamilyang Pilipino,” Lee said.

(We've already won many battles for the agriculture sector but more challenges need to be addressed. We will continue to pursue the needs of our farmers, fisherfolks, and our other agricultural workers who put food on the tables of Filipino families.)

During the last day of filing Tuesday, Oct. 8, AGRI Party-list Secretary General Ernanie Calica lodged the group's

Certificate of Nomination and Acceptance (CONA) for next year's elections.

The party-list says maintains its commitment to elevate the country's agriculture sector and to alleviate high food prices.

“Kapag naprotektahan natin ang kabuhayan ng ating mga magsasaka, mangingisda at local food producers na itinuturing natin na ‘food security soldiers’, kapag tiniyak natin ang kanilang kita, ma-e-engganyo silang pataasin ang ani, dadami ang supply, at bababa ang presyo sa merkado,” Lee said.

(Once we protect the livelihood of our farmers, fisherfolk, and local food producers that we consider our ‘food security soldiers’, once we guarantee their profit, then we will encourage them to increase their yield, the supply will go up and the market prices will fall.)

This 19th Congress, AGRI Party-list principally authored landmark legislations such as Republic Act (RA) No.11953 or the “New Agrarian Emancipation Act”, RA No.11985 or “Philippine Salt Industry Development Act,” and the recently enacted RA No.12022 or the “Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act”.

AGRI Party-list is persistently pushing for the passage of “Cheaper Rice Act”, “Post-harvest Facilities Act”, “Kadiwa Agri-Food Terminal Act” to protect the livelihood of farmers and fisherfolk and provide long-term solutions to rising prices of food.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/10/cong-lee-on-his-way-out-but-agri-party-list-to-keep-fighting-for-farmers-fishers>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# DA, KAMICO, Cabanatuan City sign MOU for first agri machinery complex

The Philippine Star

October 10, 2024 | 12:00am



Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr..

STAR / Jesse Bustos

**MANILA, Philippines** — Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., Korea Agricultural Machinery Industry Cooperative (KAMICO) chairman Shin Gil Kim and Cabanatuan City Mayor Myca Elizabeth Vergara signed yesterday a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to establish the Korea Agricultural Machinery Industry Complex, the first local agricultural machinery manufacturing cluster.

The project will enhance agricultural mechanization across the country and help improve productivity and food security.

The MOU builds on a previous agreement witnessed by President Marcos on June 6, 2023, which focused on promoting agricultural mechanization through the establishment of a local machinery manufacturing cluster. Key components of this partnership include the creation of an assembly production line, research and

development in agricultural machinery technology, workforce training and provision of Official Development Assistance.

President Marcos underscored the significance of this collaboration to boost agricultural productivity, particularly in rice supply and highlighted the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund as a complementary initiative.

KAMICO aims to stimulate local manufacturing and distribution, enhance crop quality, increase farmer incomes and produce tailored agricultural machinery.

In support of the project, the City of Cabanatuan will provide the ideal location for the project, administrative assistance and exemption from local taxes, as well as ensure the presence of road networks, stable electricity connection, sufficient water supply, communication facilities and incentives to encourage labor supply.

Recognizing the critical need for agricultural equipment to improve the country's mechanization levels, Tiu Laurel said the project would be integrated into the Department of Agriculture's four-year plan, "Para sa Masaganang Bagong Pilipinas." This plan prioritizes the acceleration of modernization in agri-fishery production systems to ultimately enhance productivity and resilience within farming and fishing communities.

The MOU signing coincides with the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the Philippines and the Republic of Korea, and was attended by President Yoon Suk Yeol during his inaugural state visit to the Philippines.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/10/10/2391327/da-kamico-cabanatuan-city-sign-mou-first-agri-machinery-complex>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Government to slap additional duties on more agricultural imports

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

October 10, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines is set to impose special safeguard duties (SSG) on four imported agricultural products that were not covered previously by the trade measure, such as pork hams and roasted coffee bean varieties, to protect domestic producers.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. is asking Customs Commissioner Bienvenido Rubio through Finance Secretary Ralph Recto to impose and continue imposing price-based SSG on various eligible imported agricultural products.

Tiu Laurel issued Department Order (DO) 20 to formalize his request, pursuant to the pertinent provisions of Republic Act 8800 or the Safeguard Measures Act that empowers the agriculture chief to impose SSG on imported commodities.

Under the order, the agriculture chief requested the imposition of price-based SSG on pork shoulder and ham, unground roasted coffee other than Arabica and Robusta varieties, sausages and similar products based on meat offal and other preserved and prepared chicken meat offal and blood other than chicken curry in airtight containers for retail sale.

Tiu Laurel also sought the continued imposition of price-based SSG on other eligible agricultural imports such as instant coffee, meat of bovine animals and chicken wings.

The order took effect immediately and will remain in force until revoked in writing, according to DO 20.

The imposition and continued imposition of SSG on new and existing eligible products are meant to protect local industries from low-priced imports, Agriculture Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa said.

SSG is a trade measure that allows the government to slap and collect additional duties on eligible imported goods whose costs fall below an established trigger price, to temper the possible harm that it could cause to local industries.



Under the law, all SSG collected by the government shall be used to enhance the competitiveness of domestic industries affected by imports, known as the Competitiveness Enhancement Measures Fund.

The CEMF consists of 50 percent of the total fees, charges and safeguard duties collected by the government from imported products.

It was created 24 years ago, but the Departments of Agriculture and Trade and Industry issued the joint implementing rules and regulations only last year.

Government budget documents showed that the CEMF reached P3.34 billion at the end of 2022. This year, the DA is spending P250 million from the CEMF.

Agriculture industry stakeholders estimate that the bulk of the CEMF came from poultry and coffee imports.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/10/10/2391349/government-slap-additional-duties-more-agricultural-imports>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Ginger prices triple to P300, seen to soften this month

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

October 10, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The retail price of ginger has almost tripled to as much as P300 per kilo this year, but government officials are expecting the prices to fall within the month as much-needed imports start to arrive in the country.

The Philippines has turned to imports as domestic supply has been insufficient to meet the growing demand for the commodity, driven by higher purchases by industrial users.

Agriculture assistant secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa said at least 4,200 metric tons of the 13,725 MT of the expected ginger imports this year have arrived in the country already.

Most of the foreign stocks, De Mesa pointed out, came from China.

Last Sept. 30, the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) approved the importation of 50 MT of ginger each from Vietnam and Indonesia to expand the country's foreign sources of the commodity.

According to De Mesa, the country did not import much ginger in the past two years, citing that last year only 143 MT was imported.

“But this year our demand expanded, especially from industrial users, particularly those who manufacture herbal tea like turmeric tea,” he said.

The situation was worsened by the loss in domestic production caused by the series of typhoons that hit key-producing provinces exacerbated by the lackluster output in the early months of the year due to El Niño, the DA official said.

“The price of ginger should be less than P100 per kilo. If it is more than that, then it is expensive,” De Mesa said, adding that about 450 MT of gingers are expected to arrive this month alone.

The price of ginger in Metro Manila ranges from a low of P140 to a high of P300 per kilo.

However, the prevailing price is about P300 per kilo, almost triple than last year's P110 per kilo, based on DA price monitoring reports.

The price of ginger is now even higher than the prevailing price of a kilo of whole chicken, which ranges from P160 to P230 per kilo, DA data showed.

The inflation rate of spices, culinary herbs and seeds, which include ginger, in the National Capital Region quickened to 16.5 percent in September compared to 7.8 percent in the same month of last year, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. disclosed earlier this week that the government was forced to import ginger to temper the rising prices of the commodity in the domestic market. – Bella Cariaso

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/10/10/2391329/ginger-prices-triple-p300-seen-soften-month>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Landbank partners with 2 agricultural firms

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) - The Philippine Star

October 10, 2024 | 12:00am



In a statement, Landbank said it inked separate agreements with KITA Agritech Corp. and TAO Foods Company Inc. to empower small farmers with increased access to financial services and opportunities for modernization.

LANDBANK image / Released

MANILA, Philippines — State-run Land Bank of the Philippines has partnered with two agriculture firms to enhance modernization in the local farm sector.

In a statement, Landbank said it inked separate agreements with KITA Agritech Corp. and TAO Foods Company Inc. to empower small farmers with increased access to financial services and opportunities for modernization.

Under the partnership, the two agri firms will provide necessary production, technical and marketing assistance to partner farmers and farmer organizations.

Specifically, KITA Agritech will introduce the Digital Trading Post which aims to improve inventory management and reduce operational farming costs associated with natural disasters and calamities.

TAO Foods, on the other hand, will introduce the Rice to Rise Program which aims to supply farmers with 100 percent locally-produced hybrid rice seeds to increase yield and improve productivity and profitability.

For its part, Landbank will extend to eligible partners endorsed by the two companies the Agrisenso Lending Program, which provides affordable financing to small farmers, agrarian reform beneficiaries and and the whole agriculture value chain.

The program, which was launched this year, has supported 1,671 borrowers nationwide with a total of P264.9 million in approved loans as of end-August.

The partnership targets to empower farmers to navigate market and environmental challenges through innovative technologies and sustainable practices.

Landbank president and CEO Lynette Ortiz said the bank aims to advance modern agriculture while driving sustainable growth and strengthening the country's food supply chain.

“We are focused on ensuring that more farmers are empowered with the tools and resources needed for them to thrive, increase productivity and contribute to national food security,” Ortiz said.

Founded in February 2022, KITA Agritech is one of the fastest-growing agritech startups in the Philippines that helps Filipino farmers become more sustainable by leveraging technology to optimize operations, reduce costs and increase productivity.

TAO Foods, on the other hand, produces hybrid rice seeds and processed meat products and focuses on sustainable farming and modern seed technology to enhance farmers' profitability and ability to contribute to national food security.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/10/10/2391328/landbank-partners-2-agricultural-firms>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Import ban on US live goats lifted

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

October 10, 2024 | 12:00am



Agriculture Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa yesterday said Tiu Laurel issued Memorandum Order No. 43, resuming the importation of live goats from the US.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has lifted the ban on the importation of live goats from the United States after a study showed that the Q fever outbreak did not originate from the US.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa yesterday said Tiu Laurel issued Memorandum Order No. 43, resuming the importation of live goats from the US.

De Mesa said the order, issued on Oct. 8, is effective immediately.

He cited a report of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), which said there has been no recorded cases of Q fever in the US.

Earlier, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) culled five dozen goats imported from the US after the animals tested positive for Q fever. The goats showed signs of sickness while in quarantine in Pampanga.

Based on the final confirmatory test conducted on June 20, samples taken from 19 goats tested positive for Q fever.

De Mesa said a study conducted by the BAI showed the cause of the outbreak did not originate from the US.

“We are waiting for the official report. Based on the official report from WOA, no cases of Q fever were reported in the US. Most likely, the bacteria came from us,” De Mesa said, adding the report is expected to be released this month

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/10/10/2391435/import-ban-us-live-goats-lifted>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Philippines, Vietnam to expand strategic partnership

[Helen Flores](#) - The Philippine Star

October 10, 2024 | 12:00am



Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations pose during the opening of the 44th Asean Summit in Vientiane yesterday. From left: Myanmar Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs Aung Kyaw Moe, President Marcos, Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, Thailand Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, Vietnam Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, Laos Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone, Malaysia Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Cambodia Prime Minister Hun Mamet, Indonesia Vice Prime Minister Ma'ruf Amin and East Timor Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao.

AFP

VIENTIANE – President Marcos met with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh here on Tuesday, during which they agreed to expand the strategic partnership between the two countries.

The two leaders are attending the 44th and 45th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit and related summits in Laos' capital from Oct. 9 to 11.



“We have made a good deal of progress since our very first discussion and some of the engagements between our two countries, and I am very happy that we will be able to pursue that,” Marcos told the Vietnamese leader during their bilateral meeting.

“And it gives us also the opportunity to explore new areas of cooperation and of partnership. So, thank you,” Marcos added.

The two leaders’ meeting focused on deepening economic cooperation, particularly in the areas of trade and agriculture, according to a statement released by the Presidential Communications Office last Tuesday night.

They also expressed their shared commitment to celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Philippines-Vietnam strategic partnership in 2025 by advancing collaboration in key sectors.

Marcos also extended his heartfelt condolences for the losses caused by Typhoon Yagi in Vietnam and the passing of general secretary Nguyen Phu Trong of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

For his part, the Vietnamese prime minister reaffirmed Vietnam’s unwavering commitment to the Philippines.

“I want to reaffirm that we always support the strategic partnership with the Philippines. I’m glad to note that the discussions that we began two years ago have been implemented effectively,” he said.

The prime minister also expressed his gratitude to Marcos for extending his condolences to typhoon victims in his country and to the family of the late general secretary.

During Marcos’ state visit to Vietnam in January, the two countries signed various agreements, including rice trade cooperation, incident prevention in the South China Sea, agriculture and cultural cooperation.

The Philippines and Vietnam are both claimants in the South China Sea, a resource-rich waterway claimed almost entirely by China.

In August, Vietnamese Defense Minister Gen. Phan Van Giang visited the Philippines to deepen defense cooperation between Manila and Hanoi.

Aside from Vietnam, Marcos is also scheduled to meet with leaders of Japan, Canada and New Zealand on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summits here.

Being his first time in Laos, Marcos was surprised by the number of Filipinos in the Southeast Asian country and was “impressed” by the caliber of the Filipino community here.

Marcos, who arrived in Laos Oct. 8, made the remarks during a gathering of the Filipino community at the Latsavong Wanda Vista Vientiane Hotel last Tuesday night.

“This is my first visit to Laos. Not as the President, in my entire life, it’s only now that I have been here in Vientiane,” he said.

The President recalled that when government agencies were planning his schedule for the ASEAN Summit, he did not expect that there would be a Filipino community gathering in Laos.

“As long as there is a trip, we always put (a) FilCom (event). But I said, maybe in Laos, in Vientiane, there are no Filipinos there... I was surprised when they said, ‘No, we have many compatriots there, and this is their job, this is what they do,’ ” he said.

There are approximately 2,000 Filipinos in Laos, most of whom are professionals, including teachers, engineers and lawyers.

“I am always impressed with the profile and the caliber of our Filipino community here in Lao PDR,” Marcos said.

“As teachers, you are educating the future leaders of this country. As engineers, you are helping build their economic security and help train your peers in your respective areas. As hospitality providers, you are strengthening their service economy and bringing in the quality standards that we have experienced back home. As executives, you make the business community here more dynamic, thereby creating opportunities for trade and investment. And as experts and as professionals, you share your knowledge and skills to benefit their society and hasten their path to development,” he added.

Philippine Ambassador to Laos Deena Joy Amatong noted that Filipinos are “paid fairly well here and are very well regarded” by the Lao people.

Marcos said Filipinos based in Laos, just like in other parts of the world, have been “superlative ambassadors” because of their good reputation.

“By exercising your professions in the professional and expert way that you do, through your daily interactions with the locals, you have become valuable members of society. You make us all very, very proud,” the President said.

As tensions remain in the South China Sea/West Philippine Sea, Marcos yesterday called ASEAN leaders to continue to uphold the rule of law and abide by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Marcos said he brought up the maritime issue with fellow leaders during the first day of the three-day ASEAN Summits in Vientiane.

Asked by journalists whether he discussed recent developments in the disputed waters, the President answered: “No, I didn’t specify the details, but it is just the general principle of the adherence to the rule of law and the UNCLOS. Just as a general theme.”

Marcos said he would expound on the matter with fellow leaders during their meetings that will be held until Friday.

“We will have a chance to get into more details, maybe in the next couple of days,” he said in a chance interview at the National Convention Center.

Recently, Chinese vessels fired water cannons at two ships of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal) in the West Philippine Sea.

Bajo de Masinloc, also called Panatag Shoal, is located 124 nautical miles off Masinloc, Zambales, and is within the Philippines’ 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone.

Marcos has no scheduled bilateral meeting with China, which was represented by Chinese Premier Li Qiang at the summit.

Apart from the Philippines, other ASEAN member-states that claim part of the South China Sea are Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam.

Meanwhile, Marcos asserted that the Philippines continues to push for the Five-Point Consensus, an ASEAN peace plan from 2021 aimed at resolving Myanmar’s crisis, calling for an end to violence, dialogue and humanitarian aid.

“The position of the Philippines ... remains the same... We are firmly behind the ASEAN proposal of the Five-Point Consensus and we are trying to find ways to move forward,” Marcos said.

“Because we have to admit that although the Five Points have been out there since Brunei, we have not been very successful in actually changing the situation,” he added.

The regional bloc is “trying to formulate new strategies,” according to Marcos, but he did not elaborate.

The President and First Lady Liza Marcos attended the opening ASEAN Summits yesterday morning. They were welcomed by Siphandone and his wife.

Marcos also attended yesterday the ASEAN Retreat Session, ASEAN leaders’ interface with the Interparliamentary Assembly, ASEAN Business Advisory Council and ASEAN Youth.

## **Business leader**

The President was also the keynote speaker at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit held at the Landmark Hotel Riverside.

He invited business leaders to invest in green metals, battery manufacturing, energy equipment, data centers and agribusiness in the Philippines.

The Philippines, according to Marcos, is an ideal hub for smart and sustainable manufacturing.

“Let me put on my salesman’s hat for just a while and invite you to explore the investment opportunities that are on offer,” he said in his speech.

The President said the Philippines has passed key reforms to boost investments and economic activities in the country, including the Public-Private Partnership Code of the Philippines.

“Since I came into office, we (have) put the private sector as an equal partner in the transformation of our economy,” he added.

He was scheduled to meet with officials of private companies Shera Public Company Limited and Capital A last night.

In another development, Taiwan has vowed that it would neither yield nor provoke despite the severe security challenges it faces from its “biggest” neighbor as the Philippines is also facing China’s expansion and aggression.

Wallace Minn-Gan Chow, representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines, said Taiwan would work even more closely with like-minded countries with shared difficulties and facing numerous challenges – war between Russia

and Ukraine, war in Gaza and Lebanon, rising tensions in the South China Sea and multiple military exercises around – **Pia Lee-Brago**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/10/10/2391516/philippines-vietnam-expand-strategic-partnership>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# BFAR exec named maritime info officer

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

October 10, 2024 | 12:00am



“In the exigency of service, Mr. Nazario Briguera... is hereby designated as the BFAR Information Officer on Maritime Concerns, in concurrent capacity with his regular functions, duties and responsibilities,” Tiu Laurel said in Special Order No. 1536.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has designated Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) spokesman Nazario Briguera as information officer on maritime concerns amid the continued harassment of Chinese vessels in the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

“In the exigency of service, Mr. Nazario Briguera... is hereby designated as the BFAR Information Officer on Maritime Concerns, in concurrent capacity with his regular functions, duties and responsibilities,” Tiu Laurel said in Special Order No. 1536.

For his part, Briguera said that the BFAR will continue its mandate of providing assistance to fisherfolk in the vicinity of Bajo de Masinloc or Panatag Shoal in the WPS despite the incident on Tuesday where the China Coast Guard used water cannons on two BFAR ships conducting a routine resupply mission.

“We were able to provide supplies to the seven Filipino mother boats and 15 small boats who are operating in the Bajo de Masinloc. BFAR will not be prevented from performing its legal mandate,” Briguera said.

He also commended the crewmembers of BRP Datu Cabaylo and BRP Datu Sanday for their professionalism and commitment.

He added that there is no reason for the Philippine government to get permission from China, which had said that the mission was not authorized.

“There is no reason for us to seek the permission (of China) as this is a legitimate operation in the waters owned by the Philippines,” he said.

According to Briguera, the presence of the BFAR and the Philippine Coast Guard in the WPS is necessary so that the fishers will also have courage to operate in the WPS.

“This proves that the government will not abandon (the Filipino fisherfolk) and will continue to support them,” he said.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/10/10/2391498/bfar-exec-named-maritime-info-officer>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# **DA blacklists 3 importers; 5 others face sanctions**

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:44 AM October 10, 2024

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) has blacklisted three importers and is set to revoke the licenses of five others for their involvement in illegal activities.

The DA, through its attached agency, the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), blacklisted LVM Grains Enterprises which brought into the country imported milled rice, cashew nuts and coffee without the necessary sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances.

Also sanctioned were Kysse Lishh Consumer Goods Trading and Golden Rays Consumer Goods Trading for bringing in imported onions and oranges without import clearances.

LVM Grains Enterprises has yet to respond to the Inquirer's request for comment on the action taken by the DA as of this writing.

The Philippine Competition Commission is leading the prosecution of the three companies accused of engaging in anticompetitive trade activities, the DA said.

At the same time, the DA has suspended and is set to revoke the licenses of five other entities due to misdeclaration, illegal importation and anticompetitive trade practices. It did not identify the five as the cases against them were still pending.

“Until their cases are resolved, however, they cannot transact with BPI,” said BPI Director Gerald Glenn Panganiban.



“We will not turn a blind eye to these importers’ illegal practices that undermine government revenues and put public health at risk,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said.

The DA has been going after importers that have been bringing in illegally sourced agricultural products even before President Marcos signed last month Republic Act No. 12002, or the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act.

The newly signed law considers smuggling and hoarding of agricultural products as economic sabotage when the value of goods exceeds P10 million.

It classifies smuggling, hoarding, and cartel operations involving agricultural products as economic sabotage.

Violators face a fine five times higher than the value of smuggled or hoarded agricultural products in addition to life imprisonment.

Agricultural products covered by the law include rice, corn, beef and other ruminants, pork, poultry, garlic, onions, carrots, other vegetables, fruit, fish, salt and other aquatic products in their raw state.

Tiu Laurel earlier warned that the government would go after food smugglers and hold them accountable.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1991255/da-blacklists-3-importers-5-others-face-sanctions>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# DA: No active cases of Q fever in PH, final report out soon

By: [Stephanie Sevillano](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine News Agency](#) / 06:06 PM October 09, 2024



Department of Agriculture (DA) logo. INQUIRER FILES

MANILA, Philippines – There are no active cases of Q fever in the country, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said Wednesday, adding that they would soon release their final report on the Q fever cases among imported goats.

Q fever is a zoonotic disease caused by the *Coxiella burnetii* bacteria, which is transmissible to humans through contact with infected animals or their excreta or body and birthing fluids.

On June 21, the DA confirmed the first Q fever cases in the country after a confirmatory test among live goats that arrived in the Philippines from the US on Jan. 11, showed positive results on June 19 and 20.

In an interview, DA Assistant Secretary Arnel De Mesa said no additional Q fever cases were reported after the depopulation of 94 imported goats from the US in “secluded farms” in Pampanga and Marinduque.

“Natapos na iyong culling ng Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) doon sa mga alleged na five dozen ng goats na na-import galing sa (the BAI has finished culling five dozen goats imported from the) US following the detection ng Q fever. Wala na, wala nang reported case ng Q fever. Na-control na iyong (No more reported cases of Q fever. We have already controlled the) Q-fever,” he said.

De Mesa made the statement after the DA lifted the temporary ban on the import of live goats from the US under Memorandum Order 43 dated Oct. 8.

“Based dito sa report ng (on the report of the) World Organization for Animal Health, there’s been no reported or recorded case of Q fever in the United States. So, most likely, the Q fever na na-detect ay dito nanggaling sa atin (the Q fever that was detected here possibly came from us),” he said.

The final report of the fact-finding team may be disclosed within the month, he added.

Earlier, DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said he ordered a study to verify whether Q fever is endemic in the Philippines as the imported goats from the US tested negative for Q fever before arriving in the country. De Mesa also cited “more stringent” measures, including stricter pre-border and quarantine facilities operations, to prevent the possible spread of similar diseases in the future.

“Ma-ensure na kapag merong detection, immediately magre-report. Kasi iyon iyong nangyari dati. Hindi agad nakaikot yung tamang (To ensure that if there’s detection, it will be immediately reported. What happened previously was there was no proper dissemination of accurate) information. So, these are part of the stringent measures,” he said.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1991152/da-no-active-cases-of-q-fever-in-ph-final-report-out-soon>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# No more Q fever cases: Ban on live goat imports from US lifted

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 07:24 AM October 10, 2024



Goats from the Shepherdess Land and Livestock Company walk past a water storage tank for firefighting helicopters during a demonstration of prescribed grazing methods for fire fuels reduction at the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Helispot 69Bravo in the Santa Monica Mountains on August 20, 2024 in Topanga, California. – The use of herbivores including sheep and goats can be a more effective method of reducing wildfire fuels instead of machinery while also improving ecosystem health in an environment impacted by climate change. (Photo by Patrick T. Fallon / Agence France-Presse)

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has lifted the ban on importing live goats from the United States since the Q fever disease is no longer prevalent there.

Memorandum Order No. 43 will be in force immediately.

It stemmed from American authorities' report to the World Organization for Animal Health, which said there were no longer Q fever cases in the United States.

The DA imposed the temporary import ban via Memorandum Order No. 26 issued in June as the US detected *Coxiella burnetti* on imported goats.

Shortly after, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) culled more than five dozens of goats sourced from the US and implemented stringent measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases to both humans and animals.

In an interview on Wednesday, Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said there were no longer active Q fever cases in the Philippines.

“The Q fever has been controlled but then again, we’re still cautiously optimistic that ... the disease is [just] there. We just don’t know when it will become active again. But for us, at the BAI and the DA, we have already controlled [it],” he said.

The BAI confirmed the country’s first case of Q fever in June.

According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the rare illness affects both humans and animals. A person may catch the disease through contaminated milk or when they come into contact with the fetus, placenta or fluids from an infected animal.

The ECDC said some people don’t have symptoms, while others will experience headaches, fever, chills, muscle soreness and, in some cases, pneumonia.

<https://business.inquirer.net/484179/no-more-q-fever-cases-ban-on-live-goat-imports-from-us-lifted>

**BUSINESS WORLD:**

# Indonesia, Vietnam eyed as alternative sources of ginger

October 9, 2024 | 8:19 pm



SAAD.DA.GOV.PH

FARM GOODS importers have been asked to consider ordering ginger from Indonesia or Vietnam to ensure that the needs of the food industry are met with ginger from China still expensive, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said.

“I’ve asked the importers to look for other sources other than China that have much cheaper prices. We have identified Indonesia and Vietnam,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. told reporters.

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) projects ginger imports of 13,725 metric tons (MT) this year, based on the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearances (SPSICs) issued as of Oct. 3.

Ginger landed so far totaled 4,248 MT as of that date, with most imports from China.

“Ginger prices in China remain high because it is still not the harvest season. That is why the price of ginger in (the Philippines) is high, because we don’t have that much supply,” Mr. Laurel added.

The retail price of ginger in Metro Manila markets was reported at between P140 and P300 per kilogram, according to DA price monitors as of Oct. 8.

Separately, Agriculture Assistant Secretary and Spokesperson Arnel V. de Mesa said that the BPI had issues SPSICs for Vietnamese and Indonesian ginger amounting to 50 MT each.

“Most of our imports are from China. When they increase prices, it will definitely affect us. We’re opening up Vietnam and Indonesia so that at least we don’t have only one source,” Mr. De Mesa told reporters.

He said ginger imports from Vietnam and Indonesia are expected to arrive in the next two months.

He cited solid demand for ginger from makers of herbal tea and turmeric tea.” — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/10/09/626879/indonesia-vietnam-eyed-as-alternative-sources-of-ginger/>

**REMATE:**

# Patuloy na pag-angkat ng Pinas ng luya magpapababa ng presyo sa merkado

October 9, 2024 18:50



MANILA, Philippines – Sinabi ng Department of Agriculture (DA) nitong Miyerkoles na ang patuloy na pag-aangkat ng luya ay makatutulong sa pagtaas ng presyo ng retail sa mga lokal na pamilihan.

“We are expecting na bababa ang luya dahil sa pagpasok ng imported na luya,” ani DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa sa isang interbyu.

Ginawa ni De Mesa ang pahayag dahil ang umiiral na presyo ng luya sa Metro Manila ay umabot sa P300 kada kilo, malayo sa average na P80/kg. hanggang P100/kg. na antas.

Sinabi niya na ang mga pag-import mula sa China ay patuloy, na may iba pang mga pagdating na inaasahan mula sa Vietnam at Indonesia.

“Ngayon kasi is maraming parating, kagaya ngayong October, we are expecting 350 metric tons (MT) additional importation for ginger, plus iyong (the) opening up from Vietnam and Indonesia of 100 metric tons na darating ngayon ding October,” anang opisyal, na tumuturo sa isang posibleng pagbaba ng presyo sa loob ng buwan.



Noong Setyembre, 4,248.9 MT mula sa 13,725 MT na inaasahang dami ang dumating mula sa China; habang 50 MT ang inaasahan bawat isa mula sa Vietnam at Indonesia, ayon sa DA.

Sinabi ni De Mesa na ang mga pagdating ngayong taon ay mas mataas kaysa sa kabuuang 143.75 MT na kabuuang import ng luya noong 2023.

Sa usapin ng lokal na produksyon, sinabi ng DA na ang bansa ay may humigit-kumulang 86 porsiyentong ginger sufficiency noong 2023, na pumalo sa 29,153.73 MT lokal na produksyon, na bahagyang mas mababa kaysa sa 33,867.83 MT lokal na demand.

Samantala, iniugnay ni De Mesa ang kasalukuyang pressure sa presyo ng luya sa tumataas na pangangailangan sa industriya, epekto ng El Niño phenomenon, at sunud-sunod na bagyo.

“Lumaki rin ang iyong demand ngayon para sa mga industrial users iyong gumagawa ng herbal tea, iyong gumagawa ng turmeric tea. So, lumaki iyong demand this year,” dagdag pa ni De Mesa. *RNT*

<https://remate.ph/patuloy-na-pag-angkat-ng-pinas-ng-luya-magpapababa-ng-presyo-sa-merkado/>

**REMATE:**

# Pagmama ng CCG sa BFAR pinalagan ni Sen. Jinggoy

October 9, 2024 19:02



MANILA, Philippines – Hindi dapat balewalain ang kamakailang pag-atake ng China Coast Guard (CCG) laban sa dalawang sasakyang pandagat ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) sa Bajo de Masinloc, ayon kay Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada.

“Hindi natin malalampasan ang mga pagmamalabis at hindi makatao ang pagtrato sa atin ng CCG. Isa itong tahasang paglabag sa ating sovereign rights at rules-based international order, ang United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS),” ani Estrada sa isang pahayag nitong Miyerkules.

“Dapat nating panagutin ang CCG para sa lahat ng mga unprovoked attacks nito. Non-negotiable ang kaligtasan ng ating government personnel at ang soberanya ng ating bansa.”

Nanawagan si Estrada, na namumuno sa Committee on National Defense, sa Philippine maritime authorities na panatilihin ang kanilang presensya sa lugar.

“I also urge our PCG and the Philippine Navy to increase the frequency of patrols in the West Philippine Sea to ensure the safety of our people and the security of our waters,” ayon sa senador.

Sa hiwalay na pahayag, kinumpirma ng BFAR na dalawa sa mga sasakyang pandagat nito – BRP Datu Cabaylo (MMOV 3301) at BRP Datu Sanday (MMOV 2002) – ay nagsasagawa ng regular na resupply mission sa mga mangingisdang Pilipino sa paligid ng Bajo de Masinloc sa Kanlurang Pilipinas. Sea Martes ng umaga nang lumapit ang tatlong CCG vessel at isang Chinese navy vessel sa malapitan at anino ang kanilang paggalaw.

“Sinubukan ng mga barko ng CCG na hadlangan ang misyon ng mga sasakyang pandagat ng BFAR ngunit hindi ito nagtagumpay. Binuksan din ng CCG vessels at itinuro ang kanilang mga water cannon, ngunit nabigo itong makarating sa mga bangkang sibilyan ng Pilipinas,” ayon sa BFAR.

Sa kabila ng mga delikadong maniobra at pagbubukas ng mga water cannon, ang dalawang sasakyang pandagat ng BFAR ay nakapagsupply muli sa mga mangingisdang Pilipino sa paligid ng Bajo de Masinloc. *RNT*

<https://remate.ph/pagmama-ng-ccg-sa-bfar-pinalagan-ni-sen-jinggoy/>

**REMATE:**

# ‘Fearless forecast’ ni Agri chief: Presyo ng bigas, bababa sa kalagitnaan ng Oktubre

October 9, 2024 17:34



UMAASA ang Department of Agriculture (DA) na ang presyo ng bigas ay dapat bumaba simula sa kalagitnaan ng Oktubre dahil ang mas mataas na presyo ng mga lumang stock ay nauubos at pinapalitan ng mas murang mga bagong stock, sinabi ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel noong Martes.

Sa pagdinig ng Senado, sinabi ni Laurel na dapat bumaba ang presyo ng bigas sa huling quarter ng 2024 ngunit ang buong epekto ay mararamdaman sa Enero.

“I call it my fearless forecast, bababa na yan [rice] starting mid to end of October,” Tiu Laurel sabi nito sa mga senators.

“Kung ngayon P50 yan, dapat P45 at least.”

Kaugnay nito bumababa ang presyo ng bigas, ayon sa Philippine Statistics Authority, na humantong sa mas mabagal na inflation rate noong Setyembre.

Samantala sinabi rin ni Tiu Laurel sa mga senador na ibababa ng National Food Authority ang presyo ng palay sa P23 kada kilo sa susunod na linggo mula sa hanggang P27 kada kilo sa kasalukuyan.

“Pero siyempre, kailangan muna nating ipaalam sa mga magsasaka para di sila ma-shock,” ani Tiu Laurel. Aniya, kahit sa ganitong mababang presyo ng pagbili, kikita pa rin ang mga magsasaka.

Bunsod nito ang bansa ay nananatiling nangungunang rice importer sa mundo, ani Tiu Laurel. Tinataya niya na ang bansa ay nag-import ng 3.6 milyong tonelada noong nakaraang taon, habang maaari itong mag-import ng 3.8 milyong tonelada ngayong taon at 3.9 milyong tonelada sa susunod na taon.

Kaugnay nito bukod sa bigas, nakatakdang mag-angkat ang Pilipinas ng mga produkto tulad ng isda, puting sibuyas at maging ang luya para patatagin ang presyo ng mga bilihan.

Samantala, hindi inaasahang tataas ang presyo ng baboy sa pagdating ng panahon ng Pasko, aniya. Ito ay dahil ang mga magsasaka ng baboy ay pinipili na katayin ang kanilang mga baboy dahil sa takot na sila ay mahawaan ng African swine fever. (Santi Celario)

<https://remate.ph/fearless-forecast-ni-agri-chief-presyo-ng-bigas-bababa-sa-kalagitnaan-ng-oktubre/>

**REMATE:**

# Ban sa pag-aangkat ng kambing mula sa US inalis na ng Pinas

October 9, 2024 16:45



MANILA, Philippines – Inalis na ng Pilipinas ang pansamantalang ban o pagbabawal sa pag-aangkat ng mga kambing mula sa Estados Unidos halos apat na buwan matapos nitong ipagbawal ang pagpasok ng hayop na sakahan mula sa Amerika dahil sa pagtuklas ng Q fever.

Sa kanyang Memorandum Order No. 43, series of 2024, na inilabas noong Oktubre 8, iniutos ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. na alisin ang ban na inilabas noong Hunyo.

Dahil dito, sinabi ni Tiu Laurel na “lahat ng mga transaksyon sa pag-import ng mga kalakal sa itaas ay dapat alinsunod sa mga umiiral na alituntunin at regulasyon ng DA.”

Ang pagbabawal sa pagpasok ng mga live na kambing mula sa US ay iniutos dahil sa positibong pagtuklas ng human-transmissible Q fever sa mga imported na kambing.

Kasunod ng pagtuklas, pinutol ng Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) ng DA ang mahigit limang dosenang kambing mula sa US.

Gayunpaman, sa kanyang pinakabagong memorandum order, binanggit ni Tiu Laurel na “walang naiulat na kaso ng Q fever sa United States of America,” binanggit ang isang ulat mula sa World Organization for Animal Health on Animal Disease Events, World Animal Health Information System 2024.

Sinabi ng hepe ng Agrikultura na mahigpit na mga hakbang ang ipinatupad ng DA-BAI upang maiwasan ang pagkalat ng mga nakakahawang sakit upang mapangalagaan ang kalusugan ng publiko.

“Pinalalakas ng DA ang mga hakbang nito bago ang hangganan upang matiyak na ang panganib ng pagkalat ng sakit mula sa pag-angkat ng mga buhay na hayop ay bale-wala,” sabi ni Tiu Laurel.

Nauna nang sinabi ng Department of Health na ang Q fever ay naililipat sa mga tao, lalo na sa mga magsasaka at mga humahawak ng hayop na madalas na nakikipag-ugnayan sa mga nahawaang hayop. Gayunpaman, ang mga kaso ng paghahatid ng tao sa tao ay maaaring ituring na bihira.

Ang mga sintomas ng sakit sa mga tao ay lumalabas dalawa hanggang tatlong linggo pagkatapos ng pagkakarantad at karaniwang hindi tiyak at banayad, sinabi ng DOH. Kasama sa mga sintomas na ito ang lagnat, pagkapagod, sakit ng ulo, ubo, pagduduwal, at pagsusuka. **RNT**

<https://remate.ph/ban-sa-pag-aangkat-ng-kambing-mula-sa-us-inalis-na-ng-pinas/>

**REMATE:**

## 10 lugar sa Eastern Visayas sapul ng red tide

October 9, 2024 13:51



MANILA, Philippines – Itinaas ang shellfish ban sa 10 lugar sa Eastern Visayas ngayong linggo, sinabi ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) nitong Martes.

Sa kanilang advisory, sinabi ng BFAR na nakita ang red tide sa mga seawater samples na nakolekta sa coastal waters ng Leyte, Leyte, at Calbayog City sa lalawigan ng Samar, batay sa pinakahuling sampling.

Noong nakaraang linggo, sinabi ng bureau na walong anyong katubigan sa Samar, Eastern Samar, at Biliran ang kontaminado ng red tide toxins, batay sa shellfish meat sampling.

Kabilang dito ang Biliran Island sa Biliran province; Carigara Bay sa Babatngon, San Miguel, Barugo, Carigara, at mga bayan ng Capoocan sa Leyte; Daram Island, Zumarraga Island, Cambatutay Bay sa Tarangnan town; Irongirong Bay sa Catbalogan City; at Maqueda Bay sa lalawigan ng Samar.

Ang Maqueda ay ang pinakamalaking anyong tubig na apektado ng nakakalason na red tide. Ito ay nasa loob ng mga hangganan ng mga bayan ng Jiabong, Motiong, Paranas, San Sebastian, Calbiga, Pinabacdao, at Hinabangan.



Apektado rin ang Matarinao Bay sa mga bayan ng General MacArthur, Quinapondan, Hernani, at Salcedo sa Eastern Samar.

Mahigpit na pinapayuhan ang publiko na huwag mangolekta, magbenta, o kumain ng anumang uri ng shellfish, kabilang ang maliliit na hipon, sa mga lugar na ito, sinabi ng advisory ng BFAR.

Ang mga isda, pusit, hipon, at alimango ay ligtas na kainin ng tao kung ang mga ito ay sariwa at hinugasan ng maigi, at ang kanilang mga laman-loob, tulad ng hasang at bituka, ay inaalis bago lutuin.

Nangyayari ang red tide kapag ang ilang uri ng algae ay lumaki nang walang kontrol. **RNT**

<https://remate.ph/10-lugar-sa-eastern-visayas-sapul-ng-red-tide/>

**REMATE:**

# Presyo ng palay ng NFA ibababa ng DA

October 9, 2024 11:01



MANILA, Philippines – UPANG maibaba ang presyo ng bigas nakatakhang ibaba ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang presyo ng pagbili ng palay ng National Food Authority (NFA) para makatulong sa pagpapagaan ng presyo ng mga retail na bigas sa panahon ng tag-ulan.

“World prices, medyo bumaba na rin at hindi bababa ang presyo ng bigas sa merkado kung ang buying price (ng palay) pa rin ng trader at gobyerno ay mataas,” sinabi ni DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. sa isang ambush interview noong Miyerkules sa sideline ng pagdinig ng budget ng Senate committee.

“Hindi na ho PHP30. Sa ngayon PHP26, PHP27 na. By next week, nag-usap na kami ni NFA Administrator Larry Lacson, ibababa natin to PHP23. Pero siyempre, ipaalam muna natin sa mga magsasaka para hindi sila ma-shock,” sinabi ni Tiu Laurel.

Ayon pa sa DA Sa ilalim ng mas mataas na buying price scheme ng NFA, ang mga presyo ay mula PHP17 hanggang PHP23 kada kilo para sa sariwa o basang palay at PHP23 hanggang PHP30/kg para sa malinis at tuyo na palay.

Gayunpaman, tiniyak ni Tiu Laurel na masisiguro pa rin ng mga magsasaka ang tubo sa kabila ng pagbaba ng presyo ng bilihin.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi naman ni Lacson na ang ibinabang presyo ng pagbili ay mananatili sa isang hanay upang makalaro sa merkado.

“Hindi naman talaga ito biglaang pagbaba ng presyo. As mentioned by the Secretary na (na) in a matter of 8 to 10 days, bababa na iyan,” ayon dito.

Nauna rito, sinabi ni Tiu Laurel na maaaring magsimulang maranasan ng publiko ang mas mababang presyo ng tingi ng bigas sa kalagitnaan o katapusan ng Oktubre, kung isasaalang-alang ang mga pagdating ng import sa ilalim ng mas mababang taripa at tag-araw na panahon ng pag-aani, na inaasahan ang buong epekto sa Enero. (*Santi Celario*)

<https://remate.ph/presyo-ng-palay-ng-nfa-ibababa-ng-da/>

**ABANTE:**

## 5 importer pasaway, binaklas lisensiya

Abante News

- October 9, 2024



Nagbanta ang Department of Agriculture (DA) na babawiin nito ang import license ng 5 kompanya dahil sa kanilang ilegal na mga gawain ngunit tumanggi itong pangalanan ang lima dahil pending pa ang kanilang mga kaso.

Sabi ng DA, sinusundan nito ang pag-blacklist ng Bureau of Plant Industry sa 3 agricultural food importers — ang LVM Grains Enterprises, Kysse Lish Consumer Goods Trading at Golden Rays Consumer Goods Trading.

Nilagay sa blacklist ang LVM Grains nung Mayo dahil nag aangat ito ng bigas, kasuy at kape nang walang sanitary at phytosanitary import clearance (SPSIC). Nilagay

naman sa blacklist ang Kysse Lish at Golden Rays dahil sa pag-angkat ng mga sibuyas at orange nang walang SPSIC at import license.

Sabi ng DA, ang 5 pinagbabantaan nitong tanggalan ng lisensiya ay sinuspinde na dahil sa misdeclaration, ilegal na importasyon at pakikipagkuntsaba. Hindi man sila pinangalanan, sinabi ng DA na ang Philippine Competition Commission ang nangunguna sa pag-uusig ng mga ito.

Nitong Setyembre, 6 ang kinasuhan ng PCC dala ng pagsirit ng presyo ng sibuyas noong 2022. Kinilala ng PCC ang 6 dahil sa pagiging kartel: ang Philippine Vieva Group of Companies, Tian Long Corp., La Reina Fresh Vegetables & Young Indoor Plants Inc., Yom Trading Corp., Vegetable Importers Exporters & Vendors Association of the Philippines, at Golden Shine International Freight Forwarders Corp. (Eileen Mencias)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/10/09/5-importer-pasaway-binaklas-lisensiya/>

**MANILA STANDARD**

# **UN cites DSWD projects on food security, disaster risk resilience**

By Maricel Cruz

**October 9, 2024, 10:55 pm**

THE Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has received another badge of honor as the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) lauded the agency's Project LAWA (Local Adaptation to Water Access) and BINHI (Breaking Insufficiency through Nutritious Harvest for the Impoverished) for invaluable contribution to climate resilience initiatives.

“In a LinkedIn post by UN's Assistant Secretary-General Reena Ghelani, she mentioned our LAWA and BINHI project, citing it as among the best practices in response to the prevalent issues related to climate crisis and El Nino,” said Irene Dumlao, DSWD Assistant Secretary for Disaster Response Management Group (DRMG).

The UN post lauded the implementation of Project LAWA, saying it has “developed as a sustainable solution to water scarcity caused by the El Niño drought.”

The post was shared by the official page of the UNDRR.

“LAWA, which means “pond” in Tagalog, was the first of its kind and built on the success of previous government-supported cash-for-work programmes. The project provided temporary employment and empowered disadvantaged communities to build small farm reservoirs to ensure access to water for irrigation,” the Ghelani's LinkedIn post read.

The UN executive also praised the Project BINHI that tapped irrigation water to maintain vegetable gardens and climate resilient crops.

Ghelani was also impressed by the Cash-for-Work (CFW) mechanism of the program, citing it as a leverage to community-involvement in addressing scarcity in food and nutrition.

The DSWD lauded the UN's positive remarks, saying that under the leadership of Secretary Rex Gatchalian, the agency will continue to implement LAWA and BINHI projects, as well as empower vulnerable communities to address climate and disaster resilience.

“On behalf of the entire DSWD community, we appreciate your favorable remarks on our project. What makes this extra special for us is it is from someone who has travelled the world – one who has witnessed competitive climate change responsive mechanisms,” Dumlao said.

The UN commendation is another reason to boost the agency’s commitment in securing that the LAWA and BINHI projects will be sustained and will remain among the DSWD’s active risk resiliency efforts, according to Dumlao, who is also DSWD spokesperson.

Project LAWA and BINHI are designed to maintain agricultural productivity during dry periods and manage excess water in times of heavy rainfall associated with La Niña.

The project is among the DSWD’s innovations that focus on mitigating the impact of food insecurity and water scarcity caused by the El Niño while preparing for the potential effects of the rainy season.

Project LAWA and BINHI were cited by President Marcos in his 3rd State of the Nation Address (SONA) last July 22, prompting the DSWD chief to say “our small idea has become a SONA program.”

Editor’s Note: This is an updated article. Originally posted with the headline “DSWD projects cited by UN official as best practices vs. climate change.”

<https://www.manilastandard.net/news/314508008/un-cites-dswd-projects-on-food-security-disaster-risk-resilience.html>

**THE MANILA TIMES**

# Agri dept blacklists three food importers

By **Janine Alexis Miguel**

October 10, 2024

THREE food importers have been blacklisted and five more could lose their licenses for engaging in illegal activities, the Department of Agriculture said on Wednesday.

The blacklisted firms were identified as LVM Grains Enterprises, which imported rice, cashew nuts and coffee without the proper clearances, and Kysse Lishh Consumer Goods Trading and Golden Rays Consumer Goods Trading, which brought in onions and oranges despite having no import permits and licenses.

The blacklisting took effect last May 21, the DA said.



Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. Photo from Department of Agriculture

As for the five others, it said that their licenses were already suspended due to misdeclarations, illegal importation and anti-competitive trade practices.

"We will withhold the identities of these five importers because the cases we filed against them are still pending," Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) director Gerald Panganiban said.



"Until their cases are resolved, however, they cannot transact with BPI," he added.

Three companies that engaged in anti-competitive trade activities are being prosecuted by the Philippine Competition Commission, the DA said.

The DA noted that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. had just signed a law classifying smuggling, hoarding and cartel operations involving farm goods as economic sabotage.

"We will not turn a blind eye to these importers' illegal practices that undermine government revenues and put public health at risk," Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/10/business/top-business/agri-dept-blacklists-three-food-importers/1982087>

# **A glimpse of the future of sustainable food production**

**By Reynaldo Lugtu Jr.**

**October 10, 2024**

BÜHLER Innovation Day, held September 12 in Makati, served as a pivotal platform for industry leaders, innovators and stakeholders in the food and beverage (F&B) sector to discuss the future of sustainable food production. The event highlighted the pressing need for innovation in food processing and the exploration of alternative proteins, reflecting the global shift toward sustainability and health-conscious consumption.

As the world grapples with challenges such as climate change, population growth and food security, the food industry is under increasing pressure to adapt and innovate. Bühler Innovation Day aimed to address these challenges by showcasing the Swiss company's advancements in food technology and processing, particularly in alternative proteins. The event featured a series of presentations from experts in the field, providing insights into current trends, future opportunities and the importance of sustainability in food production.

Bühler Philippines managing director Markus Vontobel's welcome address focused on collaboration and innovation in tackling challenges in the food industry.

Innova Market Insights account manager Vivi Veronica provided a snapshot of the F&B market in Asia, underscoring the rapid evolution of consumer preferences and the need for companies to stay ahead of the curve.

## **Alternative proteins**

Paro Institute cofounder Pierce Manlangit delivered a compelling presentation titled "Unlocking the Potential of Alternative Proteins in the Philippines." He discussed the growing demand for plant-based proteins and the potential for local production to meet this demand. Manlangit emphasized that alternative proteins not only offer health benefits but also contribute to environmental sustainability by reducing the carbon footprint associated with traditional livestock farming.

Edyloid Chavez from the Department of Agriculture gave insights on the Philippine food safety system, emphasizing the importance of regulatory frameworks in ensuring the safety and quality of food products to protect consumers and foster trust in the food supply chain.

Aparna Venkatesh, a regional innovation lead at Bühler Southeast Asia, discussed the advancements in processing technologies that enhance the efficiency and sustainability of food production. She highlighted Bühler's commitment to developing innovative solutions that minimize waste and optimize resource use, aligning with the global push for sustainable practices.

Philipp Fritschi, regional manager for value nutrition at Bühler Southeast Asia, gave an overview of extrusion technology, a key process in the production of plant-based meat alternatives. His presentation illustrated how extrusion can be leveraged to create high-quality, nutritious products that cater to the growing demand for meat substitutes.

### Environmental footprint of food products

A significant focus of Bühler Innovation Day was the quantification of sustainability and environmental impact in food production. Venkatesh stressed the importance of measuring the environmental footprint of food products and understanding the sustainability metrics of food production processes that is essential for making informed decisions that benefit the environment and consumers.

Venkatesh's presentation demonstrated Bühler's commitment to sustainability, with various initiatives aimed at reducing waste, conserving resources and promoting responsible sourcing. The discussions on sustainability were particularly relevant in the Philippine setting, where agriculture plays a vital role in the economy and the livelihood of many communities.

The event also provided opportunities for networking and collaboration among attendees.

Bühler Innovation Day was a resounding success. The event showed the importance of alternative proteins, technological advancements and sustainability in addressing the challenges faced by the food industry.

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<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/10/business/top-business/a-glimpse-of-the-future-of-sustainable-food-production/1982070>

# **MMSU helps boost Ilocos corn industry**

**By Leander C. Domingo**

**October 10, 2024**

IN a move to help boost the corn industry in Ilocos Norte, the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) conducted a skills training program for improved honey corn cultivation to 33 farmers in Barangay San Andres in Sarrat last month.

Daniel Tapaoan Jr. of the MMSU Strategic Communication Office said the skills training was led by faculty extensionists from the university's College of Agriculture, Food and Sustainable Development (CAFSD).

Tapaoan said the training was part of CAFSD's Niche Extension Project on honey corn, also called MMSU Glut 1.

He explained that MMSU Glut 1 is a registered variety with the National Seed Industry Council that has a 20 percent higher yield compared to the original honey corn.

When cooked into chicharron, it requires less cooking time of three or four hours, and has an 81-percent recovery rate, Tapaoan said.

During the training, the CAFSD extension coordinator, professor Glisten Faith Pascua, said the farmer-participants in Sarrat learned how to set planting calendars for different crops, improve planting material preparation, manage pest and postharvest, create corn-based value-added products and establish farmers' cooperatives and corn enterprises.

Pascua said the training was the first phase of the three-year joint extension project of CAFSD and the local government of Sarrat.

"We shall be implementing the second phase of the training in January 2025 with a focus on the hands-on value-adding of corn products and literacy in enterprise development," she said.

Serving as trainers are Raymund Julius Rosales, project leader, and Jovy Anne Pedro and Bryan Pungtilan, project staff members, who are also faculty members of the university's Department of Agricultural Sciences.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/10/business/agribusiness/mmsu-helps-boost-ilocos-corn-industry/1981707>

# Isabela coop gets P184-M rice processing system

By **Leander C. Domingo**

October 10, 2024

A RICE processing system (RPS) worth P184.40 million has been turned over to a farmers cooperative in Naguilian, Isabela.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. led the turnover of the RPS to the Providers Multipurpose Cooperative (MPC) on October 3.

"As we aim to significantly enhance their agricultural productivity and efficiency, this can be done through the provision of advanced machinery and postharvest facilities which will help our farmers in their livelihood and eventually increase their income," Tiu Laurel said.



**Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. (center) leads the turnover of a rice processing center to Providers Multipurpose Cooperative based in Naguilian, Isabela. DA REGION 2 PHOTO**

"You can dry your crops as well as process rice and will help the community," Tiu Laurel said during the event, adding that the project will be able to cater to the needs of some 759 farmer-members of Providers MPC.

The agriculture secretary said that with the RPS, rice farmers in Naguilian will no longer be forced to sell their produce to traders at a cheap price as the farmers can dry and process their palay (unmilled rice) harvest.

The RPS was funded through cost sharing between the Department of Agriculture (DA) with P40.50 million, Philippine Center for Postharvest Research and Mechanization (PHilMech) through the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund-Mechanization Program with P65.02 million and Providers MPC with P69.94 million.

DA Regional Field Office 2 Executive Director Mary Rose Aquino said the department's share involved the construction of two buildings while the Providers MPC provided services for on-site development, operational capital, trucks, office, silos, truck weighing scales and other rice mill accessories.

PHilMech Director Dionisio Alvindia said the center's share were the rice mill that can mill 2 to 3 tons of rice per hour, a recirculating dryer with a capacity of 6 tons of rice and two dryers with a capacity of 12 tons of rice.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/10/business/agribusiness/isabela-coop-gets-p184-m-rice-processing-system/1981760>

# Japan turns over food training center

By Philippine News Agency

October 10, 2024

THE Japanese government turned over on Tuesday a \$62,247 (about P3.6 million) food processing training center in Bombon, Camarines Sur, to help local farmers build their value-adding capacity.

The Japanese Embassy in Manila provided the grant to the Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc., which will lead the capacity-building programs for beneficiary farmers.

The grant covers the construction of a training facility and procurement of training equipment, and is expected to increase product values and the income of farmers in 10 target communities in the province.

According to the embassy, the average income of farmers in the province remains low, partly because many of them do not possess postharvest processing skills.

Japanese Embassy Second Secretary Nishimura Tokiko attended the turnover ceremony for the project, together with Pilipinas Shell Foundation Executive Director Sebastian Quiniones Jr., former vice president Leni Robredo and other dignitaries.

In her message, Nishimura underscored the importance of farmers and the need to work together to ensure "a strong, sustainable and resilient agricultural sector."

Japan launched the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects in 1989 to help the country reduce poverty and empower communities through grassroots initiatives.

"Japan believes these projects will strengthen the friendship between Japan and the Philippines, and contribute to sustaining strategic partnerships between the two countries," the embassy said.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/10/business/agribusiness/japan-turns-over-food-training-center/1981706>

# **Cordillera cacao body seeks representation**

**By Philippine Information Agency**

**October 10, 2024**

THE Cordillera Cacao Industry Development Council (CCIDC) wants to get recognized and represented in the regional agri-fishery and development council to gain support for its initiatives.

This, as the CCIDC held its third-quarter meeting in Tabuk, Kalinga, bringing together cacao farmers, growers, processors, entrepreneurs, government agencies and other stakeholders from across the region to discuss strategies and actions to advance the industry. Part of the discussion was on enhancing the visibility and advocacy for the industry with the council agreeing to work on getting recognized by the Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council (RAFC) and being included in the Regional Development Council (RDC) to gain more government support and assistance.

"We should get recognized at the RAFC so during the meeting of the RDC, we will be included. I really want to attend their meeting so we will get recognized in the RDC, so they will also learn about our activities," said CCIDC Chairman Eva Ritchelle Padua.

The council also agreed to incorporate the cacao industry in the local development plans of local government units to help establish the commodity as a key component of local economic growth.

The council also decided on the creation of an association to serve as a unifying body of cacao-based micro, small and medium enterprises.

Composed purely of stakeholders from the private sector, the Cordillera Cacao Industry Association will seek enrollment as a chapter of the Philippine Cacao Industry Association in order to gain access to valuable resources, training and networking opportunities for the development of the sector.

The CCIDC third-quarter meeting was attended by cacao focal persons and technicians from the local government units and representatives from concerned government agencies including the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology, Bureau of Plant Industry, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Department of Agrarian Reform, among others. Earlier, they turned over a cacao shared service facility (SSF) Program in Luna, Apayao, in support of the development of the cacao industry at the regional grassroots.



Wena Buston, DTI Apayao provincial director, led the launching of the SSF for cacao processing valued at P1.3 million with the Golden Cacao Farmers Association in Barangay Zumigui as cooperators. Buston said the newly awarded equipment is designed to be shared with other cacao processors in the community for the development of the cacao industry in the grassroots. She said the SSF is a program of the DTI aimed at improving the productivity and efficiency of MSMEs through a more advanced technology by providing machinery, tools, systems, accessories and other auxiliary items under a shared system. For his part, Local Economic Development and Investment Promotion officer Philip Uba said that the cacao industry is among the top priority industries in the province and is supported by the provincial government of Apayao.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/10/business/agribusiness/cordillera-cacao-body-seeks-representation/1981703>

# Poultry, hog raisers soldier on despite disease outbreaks

Ada Pelonia  
October 10, 2024



**Imported meat products must go through firstborder inspection to minimize the risk of animal diseases entering the country, encourages a leader of a farmers' group**

THE Filipinos' love for pork and poultry products is evident in the country's popular dishes, the most iconic of which is adobo.

Parties are not complete without signature dishes such as lechon and barbeque. From morning till sundown, meals will usually have viands produced by the local livestock sector.



The outbreaks of bird flu may be fewer now, but poultry growers remain in fear of incurring huge losses if their farms are struck by the contagious disease.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) said livestock plays a crucial role in enhancing the food security and nutrition of the public by providing access to nutrient-dense food like meat, milk, and eggs. However, the threat brought by animal diseases such as African swine fever (ASF) and Avian influenza (AI) weighs down the local livestock and poultry sector, affecting a critical point in the supply chain that's crucial in the country's attainment of food security.

The recent outbreak of ASF in Batangas showed the difficulties of the local hog sector in eliminating it. Since its detection in 2019 in a Rizal farm, the government and hog raisers have had to cull thousands of hogs to prevent its spread. Last year, hog output plunged to 1.793 million metric tons (MMT), lower than the nearly 2.3 MMT recorded before ASF ravaged farms.

As of July 1, the Philippine Statistics Authority said the swine inventory in the country declined by 24.83 percent to 9.55 million heads from the 12.70 million heads recorded in the same period of 2019. The majority of the country's swine population came from

smallhold farms, while the remaining were from commercial and semi-commercial farms.

The recent ASF outbreaks prompted backyard and commercial hog raisers to depopulate, according to the National Federation of Hog Farmers Inc. (NatFed). NatFed Vice Chairman Alfred Ng said fear and the oversupply spurred by the sudden unloading of hog stocks may have led liveweight prices of hogs to decline to P140 per kilogram (kg), from P200 per kg prior to the outbreaks.

“Local retail prices of fresh pork have adjusted about P30 pesos due to the current oversupply of fresh pork caused by farmers unloading their stocks before their farms get hit by ASF,” Ng told the BusinessMirror.

The prevailing price of pork ham on selected Metro Manila markets stood at P300 per kilo as of September 27. This was lower than the P340 per kilo recorded on July 29, based on the Department of Agriculture’s (DA) price monitoring.

#### Anxious poultry growers

THE outbreaks of bird flu may be fewer now, but poultry growers remain in fear of incurring huge losses if their farms are struck by the contagious disease. The 2017 outbreak, which almost crippled the poultry industry in Luzon, continues to haunt many growers, some of which were forced to shut down their operations for good.

Philippine Egg Board Association (PEBA) Chairman Gregorio San Diego disclosed that some PEBA members are no longer keen on going back to growing poultry despite the improvement in chicken and egg prices.

“I was told by one of our members that some raisers are afraid of incurring losses while some do not have production capital,” San Diego told the BusinessMirror.

When farms get hit by bird flu, the layers may die suddenly or will be culled by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) to stop the spread of the disease. This could lead to higher farmgate prices of eggs due to dwindling supply.

“If you’re a backyard raiser and you’re losing money on a daily basis, you will not be able to sustain your operations and you’d be forced to shut down your farm,” he said.

San Diego said poultry growers have to spend P400 each to raise one layer. This does not yet include expenses for their equipment to sustain the growth of their flock.

“If you will raise 1,000 heads, that will easily cost you P400,000. Where will small backyard raisers get that kind of money? And that capital is just for raising layers,” he added.

The PEBA official said they have been pushing for the distribution of bird flu vaccines. San Diego said there are available vaccines that have been proven to be effective against bird flu.

## Interventions

ACCORDING to Agriculture Assistant Secretary Dante Palabrica, the BAI is already testing three vaccines against bird flu from companies in Europe and Indonesia.

“They have to go through the BAI for safety and efficacy trial and then the BAI will either endorse or reject it. If it is endorsed, it goes to the FDA [Food and Drug Administration],” he said.

He said the government is targeting to start the government-controlled vaccination against bird flu around the first quarter of next year.

“The FDA can either give (a product registration under) monitored release or allow regular registration,” Palabrica said.

As for ASF, the government has already started vaccinating healthy pigs in Lobo, Batangas last August 30. The municipality has been identified as ground zero for the largest ASF outbreak since the monsoon season began.

Aside from vaccination and distribution of piglets, Ng said the government must train farmers in taking backyard measures, which include implementing biosecurity steps to safeguard the latter’s livelihood.

“Since 60 to 65 percent of hogs come from backyard farms, they are crucial in the country’s bid to attain pork self-sufficiency, which used to be at 95 percent before the outbreaks, and to reduce our reliance on imports, which can bring diseases that can affect domestic pigs,” he said.

Imported meat products, San Diego said, must go through first-border inspection to minimize the risk of animal diseases entering the country.

“The local livestock and poultry sector will not be faced with these challenges now if the Philippines conducted first-border inspection of meat products,” he said.

The government is currently racing to complete the first Cold Examination Facility in

Agriculture (Cefa) in Angat, Bulacan. The target is to open the first Cefa by early next year.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said locations, such as Subic, will also host a Cefa—a facility that is expected to help the Philippines prevent the entry of farm products carrying diseases that may threaten the domestic animal population.

Image credits: [DA/Jay Morales](#), [Nonie Reyes](#)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/10/poultry-hog-raisers-soldier-on-despite-disease-outbreaks/>

# **₱18.8-B calamity funds released**

Reine Juvierre S. Alberto  
October 9, 2024

THE government has released P18.814 billion in calamity funds as of end-September 2024 as aid and relief to communities and to repair infrastructure destroyed by disasters.

Based on the latest status of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (NDRRMF), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has disbursed a total of P18.814 billion from January to September this year.

The bulk, or 97.24 percent of the funds, were allotted to national government agencies amounting to P18.294 billion, while government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) received the remaining P520.135 million during the nine-month period.

For the month of September 2024, P2.150 billion was released to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA).

Particularly, the DPWH obtained P1 billion to replenish its Quick Response Fund (QRF). This is the fourth time the DPWH was given P1 billion to cover the funding requirements for the replenishment of its QRF.

The DSWD was also granted P875 million to cover the replenishment of its QRF for the year. All of the calamity funds released to DSWD amounting to P9.629 billion were used to top up its QRF.

QRF are built-in budgetary allocations or stand-by funds for agencies to immediately assist areas affected by catastrophes and crises. When agencies' QRFs are depleted, they may request for replenishment to the DBM and to be approved by the Office of the President.

Meanwhile, the DPWH was also allocated P255.266 million to support the emergency repair and restoration of infrastructure in the Province of Ilocos Sur damaged by Tropical Cyclones “Egay” and “Falcon” in 2023.

As budgetary support to government corporations, the LWUA received P20.198 million to repair and rehabilitate water facilities in three water districts in Region II damaged by Super Typhoon “Egay” in 2023.

Calamity funds allocated in the FY 2024 General Appropriations Act (GAA) may only be tapped after the damage assessment and recommendations of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) have been completed, followed by the President’s approval.

Of the P22.736-billion calamity fund allocation for the year, P3.921 billion remains available for government agencies and state-run corporations.

The funds may be used to provide aid, relief and rehabilitation services to affected communities, as well as for repairing, rehabilitating and reconstructing infrastructure in the aftermath of natural or human-induced disasters that occur within the current year or the two preceding years.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/09/p18-8-b-calamity-funds-released/>



# **DA issues order scrapping ban on US goats**

Ada Pelonia  
October 10, 2024

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has lifted the temporary ban it slapped on the importation of live goats from the United States.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. issued Memorandum Order (MO) 43 which rescinded the temporary import ban he imposed last June due to the detection of Q fever on goats from the US.

Last June, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) announced that it culled over five dozen goats imported from the US after the country's first confirmed case of Q fever at a government breeding station in Marinduque.

However, Laurel said in MO 43 that the World Organisation for Animal Health said in a report that there has been no reported or recorded case of Q fever in the US this year.

“So, most likely, the Q fever that we detected came from local sources,” Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa told reporters in a briefing on Wednesday.

He said the BAI would release the official report regarding the case within the month.

“All possible carriers of Q fever, whether goat or ruminants, have been culled. There is no longer a reported case of Q fever in the country.”

De Mesa noted that the BAI established stringent measures to ensure the immediate reporting of possible detection.

MO 43 indicated that the stringent measures implemented by the BAI “underscore the commitment of the government in preventing the spread of infectious diseases to both animals and humans to safeguard public health.”

It added that the DA has been strengthening its pre-border measures to ensure that the risk of disease transmission from importation of live animals is negligible.

Earlier, BAI National Veterinary Quarantine Services Division OIC Chief Christian Daquigan said Q fever can be transmitted to humans and other ruminants like sheep, goats, and cattle. It can be spread through urine, feces, and birthing fluids.

Daquigan said Q fever tends to manifest through abortion in pregnant goats and sheep while most often show no signs of the disease.

Despite this, MO 43 said that the Department of Health (DOH) assured the public that while animal-to-human transmission is “rare”, infection could be readily treated with antibiotics locally and widely available.

Q fever is a zoonotic disease caused by *Coxiella burnetii*, as described by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

Image credits: [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/10/da-issues-order-scraping-ban-on-us-goats/>

# Imports to ease pressure on ginger prices— DA

Ada Pelonia  
October 10, 2024

The arrival of imports would ease the pressure on the retail prices of ginger which surged to P300 per kilo in some Metro Manila markets, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa issued the statement after DA's latest price watch report showed that the prevailing prices of ginger in selected Metro Manila markets doubled to P300 per kilo, from an average of P145 per kilo recorded on October 9, 2023.

“We expect prices of ginger to fall as imports are now in the country,” de Mesa told reporters in a press briefing on Wednesday, adding that the average price of ginger should be at P80 per kilo.

According to the DA official, 4,248 metric tons (MT) of imported ginger from China have arrived in the country.

De Mesa also said the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) recently issued sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances (SPSICs) for ginger from Vietnam and Indonesia, which were allocated 50 MT each.

Figures from the BPI showed that ginger imports that entered the country last year reached 143.75 MT.

De Mesa attributed the recent surge in shipments to the rising demand from industrial users who use the crop for making herbal and turmeric teas, which are regarded as a remedy for coughs and colds.

‘Expand production areas’

Earlier, the DA said it is pushing for the expansion of areas planted with ginger to meet the rising demand of food manufacturers for the crop. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/12/government-sets-sights-on-expanding-ginger-production-areas/>)

Citing official government data, Agriculture Undersecretary Cheryl Marie Natividad-Caballero noted the fluctuation in production and harvest area since 2010.

Caballero said, however, that there were “significant increases” in areas planted with ginger in 2023, when it jumped to 4,816.26 hectares (ha), from 4,057.30 hectares ha in 2022.

“Our ginger production areas are increasing, and we want to maintain it. We will also source out quality planting materials for distribution and production expansion to encourage local production and make farmers more competitive,” she told the BusinessMirror via SMS.

The DA official said ginger yield declined to 6.1 MT per ha in 2023, from 7.1 MT/ha in 2022.

Despite this, the expansion in hectarage allowed the Philippines to post a slight increase in output last year. In 2023, estimated ginger production was pegged at nearly 29,380 MT, almost 2 percent higher than the 28,806.83 MT recorded in 2022.

When asked about the ideal ginger yield that would meet domestic requirements, Caballero said, “the higher, the better.”

“It will now be determined by the farmers’ willingness to invest in the right production technology. The High Value Crops [HVC] Development Program can only push for better access to production financing and loans, over and above our limited budget space and meager allocation for HVC.”

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/10/imports-to-ease-pressure-on-ginger-prices-da/>

# Cocoa futures climb on signs global supplies still tight

BusinessMirror  
October 9, 2024

Cocoa futures rebounded in New York amid lingering concerns about tight global supplies.

Despite prices being roughly 40 percent below a record high set in April, there are signs that beans remain scarce. Exchange-monitored stockpiles in the US have extended declines to the lowest since early 2009, while deliveries to ports for shipment from top grower Ivory Coast in the first week of the new season lagged a year earlier. Futures climbed as much as 4.7 percent in New York, after dropping on Monday to near the lowest in a month. Prices slumped 15 percent last week as the European Union's move to postpone a landmark deforestation law eased supply concerns. Deliveries may pick up in the coming weeks as the so-called main crop is collected, with the harvest expected to improve this season following better growing conditions. Still, growers remain at the mercy of the weather and supplies in the spot market remain tight after the biggest deficit in decades.

“West Africa is expected to see continued periods of rain for the next 10 days, which could keep conditions wet and raise concerns about disease,” analysts at ADM Investor Services said in a Tuesday report. The current market tightness is expected to persist for more than six months as the anticipated surplus this season won't be enough to replenish depleted stocks, according to Paul Davis, head of cocoa at trader Sucres et Denrees SA and the president of the European Cocoa Association.

“The cocoa market balance sheet is the tightest it's been in 50 years. That's not likely to get resolved,” he said in an interview last week. “It would not be wise for the market to be complacent.” Bloomberg News

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/09/cocoa-futures-climb-on-signs-global-supplies-still-tight/>

**ABANTE TONITE**

# **NFA tatapyasan presyo ng palay para magmura bigas**

October 9, 2024

Kasalukuyang nasa proseso na ang National Food Authority (NFA) para bawasan ang presyo ng pagbili nito ng palay sa mga magsasaka.

Layunin ng naturang hakbang na ibaba naman umano ang halaga ng mga pangunahing pagkain sa bansa, partikular ang bigas.

Ayon kay Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., unti-unti nang inaayos ng NFA ang presyo sa pagbili ng palay upang mabalanse ang kita ng mga magsasaka sa pangangailangan ng mga mamimili para sa mas abot-kayang bigas.

Bukod dito sinabi ni Tiu na bumaba na ang presyo ng bigas sa international market pero hindi bababa ang presyo nito sa lokal na pamilihan kung mananatiling mataas ang halaga ng pagbili ng palay.

Siniguro naman ni NFA Administrator Larry Lacson na ang pagsasa-ayos ng rice procurement price sa humigit kumulang P23 hanggang P25 kada kilo ay “calibrated” at nakadepende sa kalidad ng palay at sa umiiral na market conditions.

Plano rin ng NFA na bumili ng 50 kilong sako ng palay sa pagitan ng P6.4 milyon hanggang P8.7 milyong halaga para sa wet season o tag-ulan. (Charmaine Abong)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/10/09/nfa-tatapyasan-presyo-ng-palay-para-magmura-bigas/>

**ABANTE TONITE**

# **Luya P300 per kilo, DA tinulak import pa more**

October 9, 2024

Sumipa ang presyo ng luya sa mga palengke na umabot diumano sa P300 per kilo.

Ipinahayag naman ng Department of Agriculture (DA) na malaking tulong ang pagpasok ng mga imported na luya upang maging matatag ang presyo nito sa mga pamilihan.

Nabatid na umabot sa P300 per kilo ang presyo ng luya na malayo sa average P80/kilo hanggang P100/kilo level nito.

“We are expecting na bababa ang luya dahil sa pagpasok ng imported na luya,” ayon kay DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa.

Kasalukuyan na umanong nag-aangkat ng mga luya mula sa China at may mga inaasahang darating pa galing sa Vietnam at Indonesia.

Sabi ni De Mesa, sumirit ang presyo ng luya sa tumataas na industrial demands, sa epekto ng El Niño, at magkakasunod na bagyong dumating sa bansa.

“Lumaki rin iyong demand ngayon for the industrial users iyong gumagawa ng herbal tea, iyong gumagawa ng turmeric tea. So, lumaki iyong demand this year,” ayon kay De Mesa habang binagyo naman aniya ang mga tinataniman ng luya.

Binabantayan naman aniya ng DA ang mga nagtitinda ng luya sa palengke laban sa pang-aabuso sa mga konsyumer. (PNA)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/10/09/luya-p300-per-kilo-da-tinulak-import-pa-more/>