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MANILA BULLETIN:

PCIC to provide ₱93.8 million to indemnify typhoon-hit farmers

BY JEL SANTOS

Oct 14, 2024 05:37 PM



The Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC) on Monday, Oct. 14, said it will provide ₱93.8 million to farmers in three regions affected by the devastation of Typhoon Julian.

According to PCIC president Jovy Bernabe, a total of 10,781 insured farmers of rice, corn, and high-value crops from the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Region I, and Region II will be indemnified by the insurance company.

Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco “Kiko” Tiu Laurel Jr. said the affected farmers should be immediately indemnified “to restore their financial health so they can quickly recover from this calamity.”

“Fast-tracking the release of their insurance claims will foster confidence in the PCIC among our farmers and encourage more investors in agriculture,” he said in a statement.

PCIC data showed that 6,585 farmers are from Region I, 2,355 farmers from CAR, and 1,841 farmers are from Region II.

“Two-thirds of the damage, estimated at ₱62.3 million, was assessed in Region I, with damage to rice farms accounting for about ₱51.3 million,” the agency said.

The DA noted that Region I includes Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, and Pangasinan, while Region II comprises Batanes, Cagayan, Isabel, Quirino, and Nueva Vizcaya.

Bernabe reportedly told the DA chief that the PCIC has instructed their staff to help affected farmers and speed up the processing of their damage claims.

Per the DA's Oct. 7 estimate, the agricultural damage wrought by Typhoon Julian has swelled to ₱607.38 million, affecting 33,110 farmers. The areas affected are the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, and Central Luzon.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/14/pcic-to-provide-93-8-million-to-farmers>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Indonesia, Malaysia eye collaboration with PH on durian, other agri ventures

BY RAYMUND ANTONIO

Oct 14, 2024 03:56 PM

The Philippines may soon enter into agreements with neighboring countries Indonesia and Malaysia to improve agricultural production and address food security in the region, Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion said on Monday, Oct. 14.



In downtown Davao City, a vendor sells durian in his stall. (Keith Bacongco/Manila Bulletin)

Also the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) chair for the Philippines, he touted what the ASEAN Food Security Alliance (AFSA), which he hoped could be the country's legacy in hosting the ASEAN-BAC in 2026, can do for the region.

Concepcion said that Indonesia and Malaysia have already expressed their willingness to partner on durian and other agricultural products.

“So, it is just a matter of really putting it together which we have done. So naka-grupo na dito ang malalaking agri companies dito sa Pilipinas (the big agri companies are already grouped here in the Philippines) and we are now basically, meet and greet ‘yan eh (that’s a meet and greet). So, we met Malaysia; we met Indonesia,” he added.

Acknowledging that the venture “requires a lot of communication,” Concepcion expressed confidence this can move forward because AFSA has the support of Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Conrado Estrella III and former Department of Agriculture (DA) secretary William Dar.

“Together with iyong mga may-ari ng mga (the owners of) these agri companies, it is moving. And hopefully, by as early as 2025, we should be starting already with these joint ventures and partnerships,” he said.

While he admitted that it’s not easy because “agriculture is a challenge in this country,” the government has “the best opportunity” by scaling up the small farmers.

“Kasi kung hindi natin ito i-scale up itong mga maliit na farmers natin (If we will not scale up our small farmers), we will never eradicate poverty in the agricultural sector,” Concepcion stressed.

“We have to give them growth. We have to make succeed; and now we will have a more vibrant economy. We have so many farmers, so imagine we increase the income that they generate, the country will gain out of that,” he added.

The group’s next stops would be Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia, where Concepcion said they would have to see the compatibility and the interest from these countries.

ASFA, which traces its roots to Go Negosyo’s Kapatid Angat Lahat Program (KALAP), aims to build partnerships with ASEAN member-states in increasing agricultural productivity and facilitating market linkages “to be a more productive, food-producing, and self-reliant region,” its website said.

The Alliance is related to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the DAR and Go Negosyo.

The MOA aims to form strategic partnerships with the private sector in the hopes of providing agrarian reform beneficiaries with agribusiness opportunities, mentorship and sustainable farming models through cluster farming, corporative farming, and land lease agreements.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/14/indonesia-malaysia-eye-collaboration-with-ph-on-durian-other-agri>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Iloilo City hosts National Dairy Summit from October 28 to 30

BY TARA YAP

Oct 14, 2024 12:28 PM

ILOILO CITY – This city is set to host the 2024 National Dairy Summit from October 28 to 30.



THE Western Visayas Dairy Farmers and Stakeholders Agriventures Inc. led by its president Johnny Que (right) hosts the 2024 National Dairy Summit from October 28 to 30 in Iloilo City. (Tara Yap)

The Western Visayas Dairy Farmers and Stakeholders Agriventures Inc. (WVDFSAI) and the National Dairy Authority (NDA), an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture, are hosting 300 delegates and more than 20 exhibitors from the country’s dairy industry.

The summit at Iloilo Convention Center with the theme “Advancing DAIRYpreneurship, Innovation, Nutrition, Sustainability, and Food Security” will showcase latest products, services, and innovations of the dairy industry.

Experts from the private sector and the government will share industry insights and policies.

Vicente Bitolinamisa III, NDA-Region 6 officer-in-charge department manager, said the three-day summit aims to address gaps in the value chain of the dairy industry.

Bitolinamisa said one of the key gaps is sufficiency in milk production as the country is relying on imported milk products.

WVDFSAI president Johnny Que said the summit is open to the academe, local government units, the packaging industry, and other partners.

This year's summit is backed by the Iloilo provincial government and the Iloilo city government.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/14/iloilo-hosts-national-dairy-summit-from-october-28-to-30>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Law: A win for farmers

BY JAIME ARISTOTLE B. ALIP, PHD

Oct 14, 2024 10:07 AM

FROM THE MARGINS



Last month, President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. signed into law Republic Act (RA) No. 12022, the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act, one of the priority bills of his administration.

The passage of the law is a welcome development in the government's fight against agricultural smuggling, profiteering, and hoarding — problems which have plagued farmers and fishers for decades. It is a major win not just of the agriculture sector, but every Filipino clamoring for price stability and food security.

RA 12022 classifies as economic sabotage the smuggling, hoarding, profiteering, and cartel operations involving agricultural and fisheries products worth more than ₱10 million. This crime is non-bailable, with stiff penalties for violators: life imprisonment and fines worth five times the value of smuggled or hoarded agricultural or fishery products. Even the transport and storage of smuggled goods is punishable with 20 to 30 years imprisonment and fines double the value of the involved commodity.

The 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.

More

teeth

RA 12022 repeals RA 10845, the Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act of 2016 and addresses its limitations by expanding the definition of economic sabotage, providing stiffer penalties for violations, and setting up comprehensive mechanisms for enforcement and implementation.

Local food producers have long lamented large-scale cartel operations and smuggling due to law enforcement agencies' failure to implement RA 10845. The agriculture sector loses billions to smuggling year after year, yet, data from the Department of Justice show that from 2016 until February 2023, only nine out of 159 large-scale anti-agricultural smuggling cases were filed in court. Almost half (48 percent) or 76 of these cases were dismissed and only nine cases reached the Supreme Court. Sadly, not one agricultural smuggler has ever been arrested or convicted.

To ensure effective enforcement, RA 12022 mandates the establishment of the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Council, which will be chaired by the President alongside the Secretaries of Agriculture, Finance, Transportation, Trade and Industry, Justice, Interior and Local Government, among others. There will also be an Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Enforcement Group dedicated to apprehending violators and dismantling smuggling operations. The law also gives rewards and incentives of up to P20 million to informants, who can help ensure that cases will be successfully prosecuted.

Aside from requiring the registration of grains and cold storage facilities with the Department of Agriculture, RA 12022 also requires the establishment and maintenance of a Daily Price Index under the Bureau of Agricultural Research and Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Service.

Implementing

rules

All in all, the intent of the new law is good. We hope that it will ease the plight of farmers, and lead to the prosecution of smugglers and profiteers who cause undue suffering to our food producers and the general public.

As the implementing agencies buckle down to work on the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 12022, I hope they would open up avenues to consult with key stakeholders and affected sectors. This is to ensure that the protectionist stance of the law will not imperil ease of doing business, especially with regard to the required registration of cold storage and warehouses. The process must be efficient and not too lengthy, otherwise, we will be adding more barriers and complexity to trade. This will not redound to the benefit of farmers, agribusiness, or consumers.

I also hope that a continuing information and education program on the law will be conducted to increase the public's awareness and understanding of this law.

Food security

The passage of RA 12022 is a step in the right direction to ensure our food security. We need to pursue other reforms, however, to strengthen agriculture; protecting agricultural lands; strengthening farmers' cooperatives; investing in infrastructure, (especially farm-to-market roads, irrigation and post-harvest facilities); increasing access to financing, training, marketing and other support services for farmers and fishers.

The government should partner with the private sector to facilitate the distribution of agricultural produce and farm implements. I support Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.'s call for the construction of more ports and the establishment of storage and agri-processing facilities. These measures will lower the prices of agricultural inputs and reduce farmers' cost in processing, transporting, and storing their produce. In turn, this will result in lower prices of commodities and more opportunities for farmers and fishers to invest in other income-generating activities.

Lastly, we need to help farming communities to deal with the challenges of climate change. Aside from involving them in disaster preparedness, there should also be affordable insurance to help people recover in case of disaster and other catastrophic events.

* * *

“By eliminating smuggling, hoarding, profiteering and other cartel activities, we are not only shielding our local producers but also providing consumers with affordable agricultural and fishery products.” – Pres. Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.

(Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip is a poverty eradication advocate. He is the founder of the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development Mutually-Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), a group of 23 organizations that provide social development services to eight million economically-disadvantaged Filipinos and insure more than 27 million nationwide.)

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/14/anti-agricultural-economic-sabotage-law-a-win-for-farmers>

MANILA BULLETIN:

PAMANA : Inheriting a legacy of peace (Part 2)

BY SECRETARY CARLITO G. GALVEZ, JR.

Oct 14, 2024 10:07 AM

PEACE BY PEACE



As the Philippines continues its crusade toward achieving a just and lasting peace, the PAYapa at MASaganang PamayaNAn (PAMANA) program works at the forefront of the nation's peace and development agenda.

The PAMANA program, facilitated by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU), is the national government's flagship program designed to uplift depressed communities affected by conflict.

Among OPAPRU's partner implementing agencies are the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of National Defense (DND), the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Department of Health (DoH) and PhilHealth, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), the Department of Energy (DoE), the National Housing Authority (NHA), the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC), and the Department of Education (DepEd). The

participation of most of these agencies fall under the scope of the Inter-Cabinet Cluster Mechanism on Normalization (ICCMN) which was formed in 2019.

The OPAPRU also forms partnerships with other national government agencies and local government units (LGUs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and multilateral mechanisms in the implementation of the PAMANA program interventions.

The year 2024 has been a remarkable period for the OPAPRU in carrying out the PAMANA program. It is a breakthrough year, as PAMANA saw a revival after a budget allocation totaling ₱5 billion was allocated for it. It is the largest allocation in recent years. A total of 124 infrastructure projects, covering 88 municipalities, are now being implemented from roads, bridges, and water systems. A sum of ₱1.24 billion was allocated to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) alone while ₱3.68 billion was allocated to various regions affected by the CPP-NPA-NDF, with substantial portions dedicated to other peace agreement areas.

Both houses of Congress approved last September the OPAPRU's proposed budget in the National Expenditure Program for 2025. The momentum generated by this year's PAMANA allocation will be carried out next year with an even more ambitious agenda. With the same budget allocation of ₱5 billion approved under the NEP for the fiscal year 2025, PAMANA now aims to bring a total of 260 infrastructure projects across 120 municipalities — doubling its initiatives in 2024. These projects are intended to focus on agricultural productivity support infrastructure, roads, water systems, electrification, and more.

Aside from the approved NEP for FY 2025, the OPAPRU has also requested an additional budget of ₱5 billion to intensify PAMANA projects in the BARMM, CARAGA, CAR, Bicol, and Samar provinces, with a particular focus on areas requiring more peace investments.

With these significant budget milestones for FY 2024 and FY 2025, OPAPRU is committed to making the most of PAMANA's rejuvenation, ensuring that the program becomes more dynamic and strategic in developing more conflict-resilient communities.

The relationship among the agencies collaborating under the ambit of PAMANA is that of complementation. The bigger national agencies are concerned about the big ticket interventions while PAMANA takes care of the interconnections or the proverbial last mile for an inclusive development. PAMANA concentrates on former rebels, their families and communities and other vulnerable and isolated areas. Many of these are indigenous people (IP) communities where exploitation is prevalent.

PAMANA delivers roads and bridges, water systems, and school subsidies. Its work builds upon people-to-people interventions and social preparation activities. PAMANA is about the integration of the strength of organizations — NGAs, LGUs, CSOs, POs — working together for the people who are targeted not as a beneficiary per se but as partners for the attainment of sustained peace.

PAMANA is not a duplication. The work of PAMANA may reside in the same categories as what other national agencies are working on, yet there is hardly any duplication. The complementation rather helps in creating synergies. The DPWH, for example, builds national highways and major bridges. The DA builds farm-to-market roads. The NTF-ELCAC concern themselves with barangay roads. PAMANA handles provincial and

municipal thoroughfares that connects highways and bridges with provincial and municipal roads, to smaller farm-to-market roads and barangay roads.

The infrastructure supports the other areas of development that OPAPRU tackles in its daily grind. PAMANA, and therefore OPAPRU, as aided by infrastructure developments aims to better the conditions of the stakeholders in peace and development focused areas through sustainable livelihood programs, social protection and general well-being. Along things like electrification, water systems, food security and health management, PAMANA also addresses factors that contribute to human development, like capacity building. Recently, OPAPRU signed its support of IP students taking up their degrees in medicine from the Mindanao State University (MSU). The program will support more IP students who are planning to embark on advance studies to inspire other IP students to pursue higher education.

OPAPRU navigates peace and development with indicators embodied in our monitoring systems, the provincial development programs and the Community Based Management System (CBMS) which DILG continues to promote and develop. We look at measurements like the Poverty Index, the Human Capital (and Development) Index, and the Peace Index as additional guideposts for our peace journey.

We in OPAPRU, along with our partners, through the leadership of our chief peace architect, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., are committed toward the path of peace and prosperity - toward the path of a Bagong Pilipinas.

(Secretary Carlito G. Galvez, Jr. is the presidential adviser on peace, reconciliation, and unity.)

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/14/pamana-inheriting-a-legacy-of-peace-part-2>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Typhoon-hit farmers receive P10,000 in crop insurance

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

October 15, 2024 | 12:00am



According to the DA's operations' center, as of 8 a.m. yesterday, the losses reported were for rice, corn, high-value crops, livestock and poultry, irrigation and agricultural facilities in the Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos Region (Region 1), Cagayan Valley (Region 2) and Central Luzon (Region 3).

PNA photo by Hilda Austria

MANILA, Philippines — Up to 10,781 farmers displaced by Typhoon Julian have received P10,000 each in indemnity from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp.

PCIC president Jovy Bernabe told Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. that the state-run insurance company released P93.8 million to compensate farmers in three regions.

Bernabe said among the beneficiaries were farmers of rice, corn and high-value crops in the Cordilleras, Ilocos and Cagayan Valley.

“We need to immediately indemnify our farmers so they can quickly recover from the calamity. Fast-tracking the release of their insurance claims will foster confidence in the PCIC and encourage more investors in agriculture,” Tiu Laurel said.

The Department of Agriculture said a majority of damaged crops estimated at P62.3 million was recorded in Ilocos region, which is composed of the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union and Pangasinan.

“We ordered our workers and staffmembers to assist affected farmers and speed up the processing of their claims,” Bernabe said.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/10/15/2392594/typhoon-hit-farmers-receive-p10000-crop-insurance>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Special duties fund seen growing faster

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

October 15, 2024 | 12:00am



Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The earmarked fund for the development of local industries affected by imports is likely to increase as the government imposes additional duties on new products, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said.

Tiu Laurel told The STAR that he decided to impose special safeguard duties (SSG) on four new agricultural products because the trigger prices have been breached.

Last week, he issued Department Order (DO) 20 requesting the Bureau of Customs (BOC) to continue imposing SSG on existing agricultural commodities and apply the trade measure on four new products.

Under the order, the agriculture chief requested the imposition of price-based SSG on pork shoulder and ham with bone in, 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.

“The trigger prices of these (products) under the (World Trade Organization) agreements have been triggered. We will use the collected duties for the competitiveness enhancement measures fund (CEMF) to help the local industry affected,” Tiu Laurel said.

The agriculture chief was referring to the CEMF, an earmarked fund created under Republic Act 8800 or the Safeguards Measures Act that pools all SSG collected and allocates a portion of it for the development of domestic industries affected by imports.

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 it could cause to local industries.

Tiu Laurel also pointed out he had to remove mechanically deboned meat (MDM) of chicken from the imposition of SSG to prevent a spike in retail prices of processed meat products. Chicken MDM is a vital raw ingredient used by meat processors to manufacture items like meat loaf and hotdogs.

Meat Importers and Traders Association president emeritus Jesus Cham told The STAR that an imposition of SSG on chicken MDM could impact meat processors “severely” as the landed costs of the imported raw material would go up.

The current balance of CEMF at the end of last year stood at P4.54 billion, about P1.2 billion higher than the P3.343 billion recorded balance in end-2022, based on government budget documents.

The DA has been undertaking various information campaign to educate concerned agriculture industry players on how they can tap the grants funded by the CEMF to improve their competitiveness.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/10/15/2392495/special-duties-fund-seen-growing-faster>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA orders swift release of P93-M compensation to Julian-hit farmers

By: [Stephanie Sevellano](#) -

[Philippine News Agency](#) / 03:59 PM October 14, 2024



Department of Agriculture (DA) logo with rice and some high-value crops. – DA ordered on October 14, 2024, the swift release of P93.8 million from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) to insured farmers in the Cordillera, Ilocos, and Cagayan Valley regions following the onslaught of Super Typhoon Julian. INQUIRER FILES

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) ordered the swift release of P93.8 million from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) to insured farmers in the Cordillera, Ilocos, and Cagayan Valley regions following the onslaught of Super Typhoon Julian.

DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the insurance claims must be immediately released to ensure recovery in agricultural production.

“We need to immediately indemnify our farmers to restore their financial health so they can quickly recover from this calamity. Fast-tracking the release of their insurance claims will foster confidence in the PCIC among our farmers and encourage more investors in agriculture,” he said in a statement Monday.

According to the PCIC, around 10,781 rice, corn, and high-value crops farmers are covered by the insurance in the Cordillera Administrative Region (6,585), Ilocos Region (2,355), and Cagayan Valley (1,841).

PCIC President Jovy Bernabe vowed to expedite the procedures to aid the affected farmers.

“We have also issued strict instructions to our staff to assist affected farmers and speed up the processing of their damage claims,” he said.

Besides insurance indemnification, the DA has also assured the distribution of P166.67 million worth of agricultural inputs including rice, corn, and vegetable seeds; as well as the availability of P25,000 loanable amount payable for three years with zero interest under the Survival and Recovery Loan program of the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC).

As of Oct. 7, the DA reported around P607.38 million worth of agricultural damage in various regions due to Super Typhoon Julian, affecting a total of 33,110 farmers. (PNA)

<https://business.inquirer.net/484893/da-orders-swift-release-of-p93-m-compensation-to-julian-hit-farmers>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA to revive Trade Remedies Office

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 07:06 AM October 15, 2024



Department of Agriculture (DA) logo. INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is reconvening the Trade Remedies Office (TRO) to better address complicated cases while ensuring fair trade practices.

The DA intends to run the TRO as “a specialized and dedicated office” to comply with the legal and administrative requirements and enhance its capacity to address trade remedy matters.

Trade remedies are various measures aimed at ensuring fair competition and protecting domestic industries from unfair trade practices.

According to the DA’s Department Order No. 19, the existing unit “has integrated it into the broader organizational framework, which has resulted in challenges related to its effectiveness and efficiency in handling complex trade remedy cases.”

“The department recognizes the importance of safeguarding the agricultural and fishery sector from unfair trade practices and import surges that adversely affect local producers and stakeholders,” it added.

The office, which will become an ad hoc unit under the supervision of the DA Policy Research Service, will handle matters on enforcing trade remedy laws for agricultural products in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and other relevant stakeholders.

These include accepting, reviewing and evaluating trade remedy cases, as well as collecting, consolidating, processing, analyzing, and verifying data and information.

It will also be tasked to investigate, enforce, review, monitor, and assess trade remedy cases and corresponding measures taken.

The office will “serve as the DA central data and information repository of local and international trade statistics and trade remedies, supply and demand, production and prices, industry profiles, market studies, and similar data and information sources, for the efficient and effective implementation of trade remedies,” DA’s Department Order No. 19 states.

While waiting for the Department of Budget and Management’s approval to create an organic division within the DA, the office will be composed of the following: trade remedies data management, research, and advocacy section; trade remedies investigation, enforcement, and monitoring and evaluation section; and trade remedies fund management and administrative support section.

The DA, DTI and Tariff Commission are mandated to ensure the effective implementation of trade remedy laws by creating a special unit within their respective offices.

The government has enacted different laws to safeguard local industries from unfair trade practices and import surges. These are Republic Act (RA) No. 8751 (Countervailing Act of 1999), RA No. 8752 (Anti-Dumping Act of 1999), and RA No. 8752 (Anti-Dumping Act of 1999).

<https://business.inquirer.net/484966/da-to-revive-trade-remedies-office>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Corn, soy fall further on expectations for massive US harvest

Reuters / 03:26 PM October 14, 2024



Corn and soy (left) file/stock images

CANBERRA — Chicago corn and soybean futures edged lower again on Monday after the US Department of Agriculture last week confirmed that ongoing US harvests will be among the largest on record.

Wheat futures also slipped after the USDA raised its global wheat supply outlook, though concerns about exports from the Black Sea limited losses.

The most-active corn contract on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) Cv1 was down 0.2 percent at \$4.14-3/4 a bushel at 0545 GMT and trading at its lowest level since Sept. 27.

CBOT soybeans Sv1 slipped 0.2 percent to \$10.04 a bushel after falling below \$10 for the first time in a month.

US farmers produced even more corn than expected this year, the USDA said in a report on Friday, with the country on track for its second-biggest harvest ever.

The USDA trimmed its US soybean forecast but production is still set to be the highest on record.

The United States is the world's largest corn exporter and the No. 2 soybean supplier.

The upgrade for corn was unexpected considering dry conditions in September, said Vitor Pistoia, an analyst at Rabobank in Sydney.

Traders are also watching Brazil, the top soybean exporter and a big shipper of corn, where rain is forecast to ease dry conditions that threatened production, said Pistoia.

“As rainfall returns or becomes more solid in Brazil, the market will dive a little,” he said.

CBOT wheat Wv1 was down 0.5 percent at \$5.96 a bushel but was holding near 3-1/2-month highs reached at the start of the month.

The USDA on Friday reduced its estimate for world 2024/25 production but raised its ending-stocks outlook to 257.72 million metric tons, 1.6 million tons more than analysts had expected.

Top exporter Russia, meanwhile, asked exporters not to sell wheat by tender to international buyers below a minimum price, sources said.

The de-facto price floor – and a rise in wheat export duties – is set to curb exports that flowed in large quantities in recent weeks.

Meanwhile, agricultural consultancy Sovecon cut its 2024 Russian wheat harvest forecast to 81.5 million tons from 82.9 million tons previously.

Adverse weather conditions have hit Russia and several other major wheat exporters, reducing crop yields and lifting CBOT prices in recent weeks.

The weather outlook for Russia over winter and into spring suggests average rainfall and warm temperatures, which could create problems for crops, said Pistoia.

“It’s a bullish story,” he said.

<https://business.inquirer.net/484890/corn-soy-fall-further-on-expectations-for-massive-us-harvest>

BUSINESS WORLD:

NFA Aug. palay procurement tops 3,209 MT

October 14, 2024 | 9:10 pm



Sacks of palay or unmilled rice are seen inside a National Food Authority (NFA) warehouse in Balagtas, Bulacan. — PHILIPPINE STAR/MIGUEL DE GUZMAN

THE National Food Authority (NFA) said on Wednesday that it procured 3,209.9 metric tons (MT) of palay, or unmilled rice, in August, equivalent to 64,199 sacks of 50 kilograms each.

In its monthly report, the NFA said the procurement represents an accomplishment rate of 16.64%, against a target of 19,285 MT or 385,700 sacks for August.

On the other hand, August palay procurement exceeded the year-earlier total of 285.25 MT or about 5,705 sacks.

“This significant shortfall in procurement can be attributed to the onset of the lean months,” it added.

The lean season for rice is July to September, when harvest activity slows down.

The NFA buys palay for between P23 and P25 per kilogram for dry and clean grain.

The NFA is targeting a palay inventory of 435,000 MT before the end of the year. It is required to maintain a rice reserve equivalent to about nine days’ demand.

As of Aug. 31, the NFA's inventory of milled rice was 151,210 MT or 3,024,206 sacks.

"It should be noted that NFA's inventory is only part of the national rice inventory" and excludes reserves held elsewhere, the NFA said.

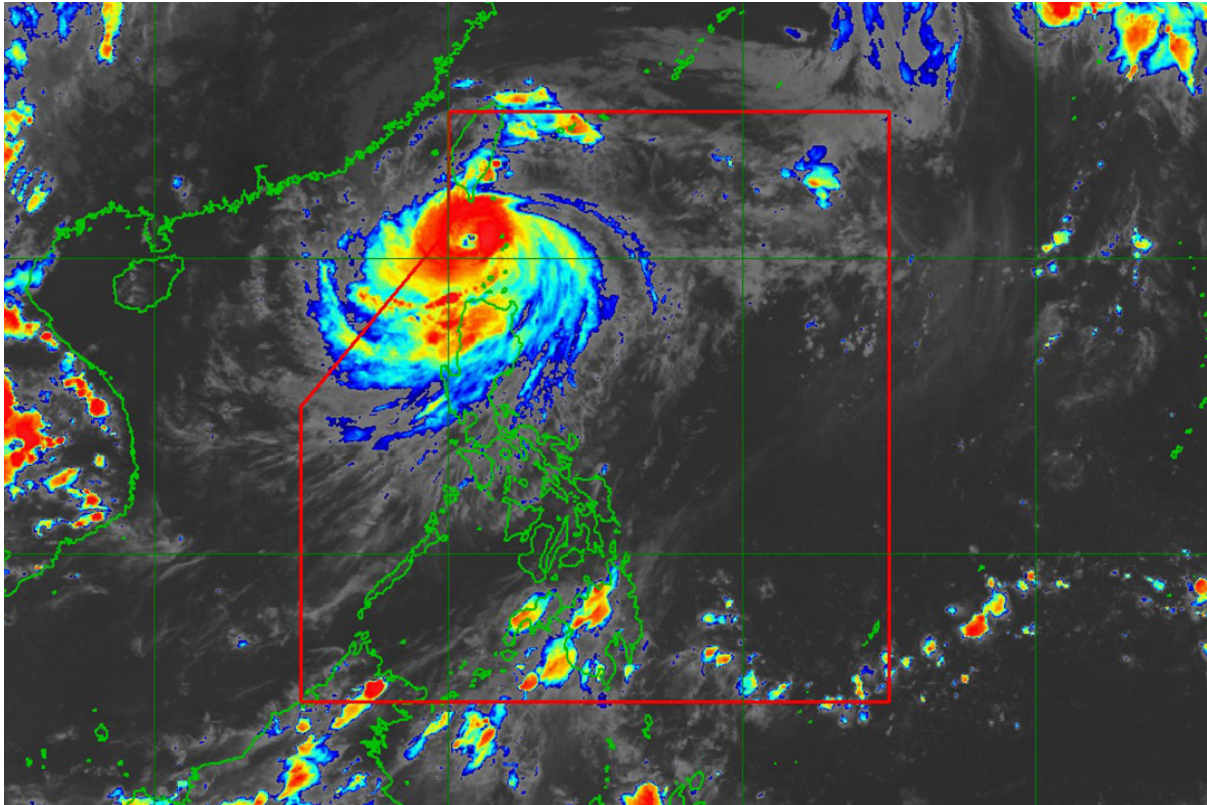
The NFA said it distributed 24,267 bags (1,213.35 MT) of milled rice to various government agencies and local government units. This was well below its 547,200 bags (27,360 MT) target for the month. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/10/14/627746/nfa-aug-palay-procurement-tops-3209-mt/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Crop insurance payouts expected for over 10,000 farmers following typhoon

October 14, 2024 | 9:10 pm



PAGASA.DOST.GOV.PH

THE Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC) said on Monday that it is due to compensate 10,781 farmers affected by Typhoon Julian (international name: Krathon).

In a statement, the PCIC said it will initially disburse indemnities of P93.8 million to farmers from the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Region I, and Region II.

“We need to immediately indemnify our farmers to restore their financial health so they can quickly recover from this calamity,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said.

“Fast-tracking the release of their insurance claims will foster confidence in the PCIC among our farmers and encourage more investors in agriculture,” he added.

Agricultural damage due to Typhoon Julian was estimated at P607.38 million, with lost volume reckoned at 25,407 metric tons, according to a Department of Agriculture (DA) bulletin released on Oct. 7.

“We have also issued strict instructions to our staff to assist affected farmers and speed up the processing of their damage claims,” PCIC President Jovy C. Bernabe said.

The PCIC said insured farmers from Region I amounted to 6,585. There were 2,355 such farmers from CAR and 1,841 from Region II.

The Philippines experiences about 20 tropical cyclones each year which heighten the risk of wind damage and flooding.

The government weather service, known as PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration), estimates a 71% chance of La Niña forming between September and November, likely persisting until the first quarter.

This is expected to bring an increased likelihood of typhoons, affecting crop production.

“I expect that we should perform much, much better next year. The DA must be ready to tackle whatever comes its way without excuses,” Mr. Laurel said. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/10/14/627745/crop-insurance-payouts-expected-for-over-10000-farmers-following-typhoon/>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Asean food security alliance to help local farmers – Concepcion

By Kristina Maralit

October 15, 2024

IN an effort to help the government address problems in the agriculture sector, "big brothers" from Southeast Asian countries will band together to assist local farmers, Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion said.

He said that the Asean Business Advisory Council, which he heads, has started the Asean Food Security Alliance — a program meant to help food producers in the country.

"It's a program we launched with the President [Marcos Jr.] a couple of months ago. It also involves Department of Agrarian Reform Secretary [Conrado] Estrella," Concepcion said.

The former presidential adviser explained that through the program, idle government lands will be leased to companies from around the region — countries such as Laos, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Cambodia — who, in turn, will utilize the skills of local farmers.

"So, the big brothers will become the mentors. A mentor is needed because the smaller farmers are having a harder time because they till only a small piece of land. The mentors, the big brothers, have advanced technology — very high level.

So, that will be a big help for their farm produce, whether it's rice, durian, corn, etc.," Concepcion said.

"That's our plan and that's supported by President Marcos. He knows agriculture is our biggest challenge. We're forming these 10

countries to come together and help in ensuring that within these countries, everyone will progress in agriculture," he added.

Concepcion clarified that government lands would not be sold but would be leased long-term to foreign investors or the private sector to provide employment for local farmers.

"How we planned it, big agriculture companies will invest in the local ones. There's a partnership. In other words, the big farming firms overseas will be encouraged to partner with [their] local counterparts. I'm not pushing that these huge agri firms overseas will have direct access to the land unless there is a specific agricultural product that may require that," he said.

"So, we're starting this, hopefully, when we host the Asean in 2026. The Asean food security alliance will be functioning as one focus group in providing food security," he added.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/15/news/national/asean-food-security-alliance-to-help-local-farmers-concepcion/1984184>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Global rice imports seen rising by USDA

By Janine Alexis Miguel

October 14, 2024

GLOBAL rice imports are projected to increase following India's trade policy changes, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) said.

The Indian government has lifted a 14-month export ban on non-basmati white rice, removed the minimum export price on basmati rice and reduced tariffs to 10 percent on paddy, brown, and parboiled exports.

"Global trade is now set to rise in 2025 as top exporter India expands shipments and global rice prices are expected to fall," the USDA said in a report.

It said that the Philippines could import around 4.7 million metric tons (MT) of rice this year, up from a previous estimate of 4.6 million MT, due to the "strong buying of Vietnam rice."

Rice arrivals in the country next year, meanwhile, are projected to hit nearly 5.0 million MT due to smaller crops and India's return to the global market.

The USDA said the Philippines would be the world's top rice importer, followed by Vietnam and the European Union, respectively, with an estimated 2.9 million MT and 2.2 million MT.

As of end-September, rice deliveries to the Philippines totaled 3.28 million MT, up from 2.68 million MT a year earlier.

In 2023, inbound shipments of the staple totaled 3.6 million MT, down 5.9 percent from the record high of 3.82 million MT logged in 2022.

The DA has said that 2024 imports are unlikely to exceed last year's volume.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has also said that the removal of India's export curbs could help reduce domestic and global prices of the grain.

The USDA also expects global rice production to increase, driven by higher output from major rice-producing countries.

"Global rice production is forecast up based on a substantial increase for India more than offsetting a reduction for the Philippines," it said.

Domestic milled rice production is expected to decrease to 12.3 million MT, lower than the earlier projection of 12.7 million MT.

Philippine Statistics Authority data showed that production of palay or unmilled rice from January to June was 8.54 million MT, down 5.4 percent from the 9.03 million MT recorded a year earlier.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/14/business/top-business/global-rice-imports-seen-rising-by-usda/1983753>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

NFA reports drastic spike in palay procurement

Ada Pelonia
October 14, 2024

PALAY procurement of the National Food Authority jumped to more than 3,000 metric tons (MT) in August.

The grains agency said it procured 3,209.95 MT of palay, higher by more than 1,000 percent than the 285.25 MT it purchased in the same month last year.

However, the NFA noted that this was lower than its procurement target of 19,285 MT owing to the lean season for rice, which runs from the months of July to September.

“This significant shortfall in procurement can be attributed to the onset of the lean months,” the NFA said in its latest accomplishment report.

“Despite these, the NFA remains committed to providing excellent service to farmers and farmer organizations, ensuring they have the opportunity to sell their harvest to the agency.”

Meanwhile, the grains agency said it had a total rice inventory of 151,210 MT at the end of August.

“It should be noted that NFA’s inventory is 8.02 percent of the country’s national rice inventory.”

The NFA also distributed 1,213.35 MT of milled rice during the reference month, which is 4.43 percent of its target of 27,360 MT.

“Sales were calibrated due to low inventory level of rice stocks, hence low distribution accomplishment,” the NFA said.

The grains agency reported that it distributed 984.8 MT of rice to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), legislators, and local governments for relief operations and calamity response.

About 226.4 MT of rice were distributed to government agencies and local governments' rice requirement under the Executive Order 51 program, the NFA said.

The agency also distributed 2.15 MT for the one-time rice assistance under Administrative Order 2, series of 2022.

The NFA Council, chaired by Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., earlier approved an increase in the selling price of rice to P38 a kilo from P25 per kilo to the DSWD and other government agencies.

“The higher selling price agreed to by the DSWD will help not only reduce NFA losses but also give it additional resources to buy more palay from our farmers,” Laurel said in a statement.

For this wet season, the NFA said it plans to buy between 6.4 million and 8.7 million 50-kilo bags of palay.

The grains agency has also sought the immediate release of P9 billion of rice procurement funds from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to increase its war chest to around P11 billion.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/14/nfa-reports-drastic-spike-in-palay-procurement/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Crop insurer to release P93.8M to aid farmers

Ada Pelonia
October 14, 2024

THOUSANDS of farmers are expected to receive indemnity checks amounting to P93.8 million from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC) as compensation for the damage caused by the onslaught of super typhoon Julian.

PCIC President Jovy C. Bernabe said in his report to Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. that a total of 10,781 insured farmers of rice, corn and high-value crops from the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Ilocos Region and Cagayan Valley will be indemnified by the insurance company.

“We have also issued strict instructions to our staff to assist affected farmers and speed up the processing of their damage claims,” Bernabe purportedly told Laurel.

According to the agriculture chief, the immediate indemnification of farmers would help them bounce back from the calamity.

“Fast-tracking the release of their insurance claims will foster confidence in the PCIC among our farmers and encourage more investors in agriculture,” Laurel was quoted in a statement as saying.

Of the farmers insured with the PCIC, 6,585 are from Ilocos Region, 2,355 from CAR and 1,841 from Cagayan Valley. The PCIC said the Ilocos Region bore two-thirds of the damage, estimated at P62.3 million. Damage to rice farms in the region account for about P51.3 million.

Ilocos Region comprises Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union and Pangasinan, while Cagayan Valley includes Batanes, Cagayan, Isabel, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya.

Damages

ACCORDING to the Department of Agriculture (DA), the damage brought by the onslaught of super typhoon “Julian” in the country’s agriculture sector climbed to P607.38 million.

The DA reported that the volume of production losses in CAR, Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley and Central Luzon have reached 25,407 metric tons (MT), affecting 33,110 farmers, with 17,344 hectares (has.) of agricultural areas.

Rice suffered most of the damages at 21,875 MT, followed by corn at 2,778 MT and high-value crops at 755 MT.

According to the DA, most of the damage and losses on rice and corn were in the reproductive and maturity stages. These losses were equivalent to P427.65 million for rice, P38.95 million for corn and P31.13 million for high-value crops.

The livestock and poultry also reported losing 1,558 heads, which include chicken, swine, cattle, carabao, goat and sheep valued at P3.76 million. Damage to irrigation facilities was recorded at about P92.68 million while other farm structures at P13.22 million.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/14/crop-insurer-to-release-p93-8m-to-aid-farmers/>

REMATE:

ASF vaccination gagawin na rin sa labas ng Batangas – DA

October 14, 2024 18:12



MANILA, Philippines – Inaasahang gagawin na rin sa labas ng Batangas ang pagbabakuna laban sa African swine fever.

Sa sidelines ng National Meat Safety Consciousness Week, sinabi ni Agriculture Undersecretary for Livestock Deogracias Victor Savellano na susubukan nila ang mga bagong estratehiya para mapabilis ang vaccine rollout.

“Nag-usap kami ni Secretary [Francisco Tiu Laurel] the other day, na kailangan talaga bilisan ang rollout, as we have a commitment na by November, yung 10,000 doses, ma-rollout na natin,” ani Savellano.

“May mga new strategies na gagawin, yung mga regional directors will look for yung mga gusto na magpa-vaccine,” dagdag pa niya.

Sinabi ni Savellano na mabagal ang rollout dahil sa proseso na nag-oobliga ng blood testing ng baboy para makumpirma na sila ay ASF free.

Nagdadalawang-isip din ang may-ari ng maliliit na babuyan dahil ang mga infected na baboy ay kailangang patayin.

Sa kabila nito, sinabi ni Savellano na bagamat hindi nila tuluyang aalisin ang testing bilang bahagi ng vaccination process, pinag-aaralan pa nila ang ibang posibilidad.

Kailangan din aniyang maging mahigpit ang biosecurity hindi lamang sa mga baboy kundi maging sa ibang hayop.

“Minsan nako-control natin, minsan hindi. Kailangan talaga natin palakasin ang biosecurity. Yun ang nakikita natin na kailangan natin pagtuunan ng pansin,” anang opisyal. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/asf-vaccination-gagawin-na-rin-sa-labas-ng-batangas-da/>

ABANTE:

PH No. 1 importer pa rin ng bigas

Abante News

• October 14, 2024



Mananatiling number 1 importer ng bigas sa mundo ang Pilipinas dahil sa naging epekto ng El Niño, La Niña at mga nagdaang bagyo sa produksiyon ng bigas sa bansa.

Sa pinakahuling Grain: World Markets and Trade report, tinaya ng Foreign Agricultural Service ng US Department of Agriculture na ang aangkating bigas ng Pilipinas ay aabot ng 4.7 metriko tonelada ngayong taon, mas mataas ng 2.2% mula sa naunang estimate na 4.6 million MT.

Sa susunod na taon, lalo pang tataas ang aangkating bigas sa 4.9 milyong tonelada dahil sa pagliit ng ani ng mga lokal na magsasaka.

Ang kabuuang volume ng bigas na inangkat sa huling tala noong Oktubre 3, base sa datos ng Bureau of Plant Industry ay 3.29 milyong metriko tonelada.

Nanggaling ito sa Vietnam (2.61 million MT), Thailand (416,185.19 MT), Pakistan (157,564.48 MT) at India (76,971 MT). Katatanggal lamang ng India ng ban sa export ng kanilang non-basmati white rice.

“Global rice production is forecast up based on a substantial increase for India, more than offsetting a reduction for the Philippines,” ayon sa report.

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/10/14/ph-no-1-importer-pa-rin-ng-bigas/>

