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MANILA BULLETIN:

PH prioritizes abaca, bamboo, mango, seaweed to boost global sustainable agriculture

BY JEL SANTOS

Oct 19, 2024 08:17 PM



DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. (MB FILE PHOTO)

The Philippine government is putting its focus on four key agricultural commodities—abaca, bamboo, mango, and seaweed—as part of its effort to contribute to global sustainable agriculture, Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. bared during the 2024 World Food Forum in Rome.

The four products are considered vital in supporting local economies, generating employment, and promoting sustainable development, according to Laurel.

In the forum, Laurel underscored the importance of abaca, bamboo, mango, and seaweed to the Philippines' agricultural agenda, as well as their alignment with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO's) goals of transforming global agri-food systems to be more resilient and sustainable.

“We are targeting these commodities because they are not only environmentally sustainable but also economically impactful. They represent opportunities for job creation, sustainable livelihoods, and regional development,” Laurel said

The four commodities, he said, were specifically chosen for their potential to attract investment and align with global trends in sustainable and regenerative agriculture.

Global alignment in agri

Laurel told FAO officials that the Philippines’ strategic investment plan, which centers on these commodities is part of the government’s broader agricultural development strategy.

The plan, which was presented by Laurel, seeks to leverage international cooperation to advance the production and processing of abaca, bamboo, mango, and seaweed in ways that align with international sustainable agriculture practices.

For his part, FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu in Rome expressed support for the Philippines’ focus on these sectors, particularly the potential for abaca and bamboo to contribute to climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration.

He stressed FAO’s commitment to continuing its collaboration with the Philippines, particularly in accessing multilateral funds, such as the Pandemic Fund under the World Bank, to further boost these initiatives.

“FAO stands ready to continue supporting the Philippines in building resilient agricultural systems that can withstand health and climate-related crises,” Qu said.

Sustainable commodities to boost local economies

The agriculture department said the four commodities at the heart of the Philippines’ strategy are particularly promising for their environmental and economic contributions. Abaca, long recognized as one of the country’s leading exports, is integral to global markets for biodegradable products like ropes, textiles, and paper.

Bamboo, another sustainable resource, is increasingly being recognized for its wide range of uses, from construction materials to carbon sequestration.

Mango, a high-value fruit for both domestic and international markets, provides a significant source of income for Filipino farmers.

Meanwhile, seaweed, a staple in food and industrial applications, plays a key role in coastal community livelihoods.

“We are keen to develop our agriculture sector through increased trade and investment. The Philippines is dedicated to creating sustainable livelihoods for our farmers and fisherfolk,” said Laurel.

As such, the DA chief pointed out that expanding these sectors will help the country meet its agricultural targets, create jobs, and promote long-term economic growth, especially in rural areas.

Challenges, solutions

Despite these promising developments, Laurel acknowledged that the Philippine agriculture sector still faces significant challenges, including the impact of natural disasters, agricultural smuggling, and fragmented supply chains.

To address these, he said the Philippine government has increased its agriculture budget to ₱167.5 billion, with investments focused on infrastructure such as irrigation, cold storage, and farm-to-market roads, along with direct support for farmers.

“These sectors are our way forward in ensuring not just food security, but also sustainability in our agricultural practices. We welcome FAO’s continued support as we work to overcome these hurdles and ensure the long-term prosperity of our agricultural communities,” Laurel stated.

The talks between the Philippine agriculture secretary and FAO’s director-general reaffirmed the robust partnership between the Philippines and FAO, featuring 19 active projects valued at \$41 million.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/19/ph-boost-global-sustainable-agriculture>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Bureau of Animal Industry ordered to ‘refine’ vaccination protocol of ASF vaccines

BY JEL SANTOS

Oct 18, 2024 03:37 PM



(File photo)

To expedite the controlled vaccination of the African Swine Fever (ASF) vaccines, Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has instructed the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) to “refine” its vaccination protocol.

The results of blood tests conducted by BAI on 36 pigs, vaccinated last month in Lobo, Batangas—the ground zero of the latest ASF outbreak—showed that the animals have generated sufficient antibodies to resist the ASF virus.

“We’re hopeful that impending changes to the vaccination protocol will finally fast-track the vaccine rollout and finally address our problem with this stubborn virus,” Laurel said in a statement on Friday, Oct. 18.

Meanwhile, Laurel acknowledged that many backyard hog raisers remain hesitant to participate due to concerns that their pigs could be culled if tests reveal infection.

In August, the DA procured 10,000 doses of AVAC live vaccines from Vietnam through emergency procurement as part of a larger initiative to distribute at least 600,000 doses.

The goal of this vaccine rollout is to eliminate the deadly ASF virus, which has ravaged the local hog industry since the first outbreak in 2019.

As of Oct. 2, the latest BAI data revealed that ASF remains active in 30 provinces across 14 of the country's 17 regions.

ASF is a highly contagious viral disease that affects domestic pigs and wild boars.

Although the disease doesn't pose any risk to humans, experts said that it has devastating effects on pig populations and the livestock industry, causing high mortality rates and often wiping out entire herds.

ASF is transmitted through direct contact with infected animals, contaminated feed, or materials such as equipment and clothing, making it difficult to control once it spreads.

https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/18/bureau-of-animal-industry-ordered-to-refine-vaccination-protocol-of-asf-vaccines#google_vignette

MANILA BULLETIN:

Anthrax infects, kills 4 carabaos in Cagayan

BY FREDDIE LAZARO

Oct 18, 2024 02:00 PM

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – The Department of Agriculture (DA)-Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) has confirmed that anthrax infected and killed four carabaos in Santo Niño, Cagayan recently.



FOUR carabaos were infected and killed by anthrax in Cagayan. (File)

The DA confirmed the infection days after two residents were suspected to have contracted anthrax after consuming infected carabao meat.

DA-Region 2 Regional Executive Director Rose Mary G. Aquino said that anthrax symptoms on the slaughtered carabaos were first observed on Sept. 21. However, these were not immediately reported to the DA and ignored by the farmers who thought these as simple animal illnesses.

Aquino said that the carabao was suspected to have contracted anthrax due to skin lesions before they died.

The Agriculture department advised farmers not to consume the meat of dead animals suspected to have anthrax. These should be buried immediately to prevent possible spread to other livestock or humans.

The DA and the Department of Health (DOH) will conduct vaccination on carabaos aged six-months-old and up here to prevent its spread.

Aquino urged farmers to report anthrax symptoms. She added that concerned agencies and the local government unit have restricted the transport and sale of carabao meat outside of the town.

The DOH and the Cagayan Provincial Health Office are currently conducting intense surveillance and monitoring of possible anthrax infection on humans as more or less 141 residents purchased meat from the infected carabaos.

Twelve suspected cases of human anthrax infection were recorded in Cagayan and three were confirmed by the DOH in December 2022. These were the last occurrence in the area in two years.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, anthrax is a serious disease usually caused by *Bacillus anthracis* bacteria found naturally in soil around the world.

It commonly affects livestock and wild animals and people usually get sick with anthrax if they come in contact with infected animals or contaminated animal products, it added.

https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/18/anthrax-infects-kills-4-carabaos-in-cagayan#google_vignette

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

‘Refine ASF vaccination protocol to fast-track rollout’

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

October 19, 2024 | 12:00am



At least 41 hogs were initially vaccinated, but six died because of comorbidities, the Department of Agriculture said.

AFP / File

MANILA, Philippines — Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. yesterday ordered the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) to refine its protocol in the vaccination against African swine fever to expedite the rollout of ASF vaccines and address the continued spread of the virus in the country.

Tiu Laurel said the pilot vaccination in Lobo, Batangas – ground zero of the ASF outbreak – showed encouraging results, noting that blood tests on 35 pigs have shown that the hogs developed sufficient antibodies to combat the virus.

“We are hopeful that impending changes to the vaccination protocol will finally fast-track the vaccine rollout and address our problem with this stubborn virus,” Tiu Laurel said.

At least 41 hogs were initially vaccinated, but six died because of comorbidities, the Department of Agriculture said.

Tiu Laurel acknowledged that many backyard hog raisers are hesitant to join the ASF vaccine rollout amid concerns that their pigs will be slaughtered if tests showed the animals are infected.

He has approved the allocation of P350 million for the procurement of 600,000 doses of ASF vaccine.

Based on BAI data, ASF has spread, as of Oct. 2, to 534 barangays in at least 14 regions, 30 provinces and 122 municipalities.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/10/19/2393584/refine-asf-vaccination-protocol-fast-track-rollout>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Gov't turns to RFID to screen agri imports

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 02:10 AM October 19, 2024

The [Bureau of Plant Industry \(BPI\)](#) has teamed up with homegrown FMC Research Solutions to leverage digital technology in intensifying the inspection of imported agricultural goods.

In a statement on Friday, the state agency said the partnership is critical in preventing the entry of unsafe food products and controlling the spread of potential diseases linked to food imports.

BPI Director Gerald Glenn Panganiban said the two partners will conduct a pilot testing program involving rice imports. This will run for three and a half months at no additional cost to the government.

Panganiban told the Inquirer that RFID (radio frequency identification) technology will be used “to track incoming rice imports and trace where they are in the value chain (such as ports of entry, warehouse, etc.).”

Analytics

Meanwhile, FMC Research co-founder Melody Chua said they were aiming to secure an end-to-end system designed to counter the present issues on food safety and the smuggling of agricultural goods.

“Our proposed solution ensures comprehensive coverage to enhance the monitoring and audit functions of regulatory agencies by providing the needed reports and business analytics to aid the [BPI],” she added.

Panganiban said the RFID technology, which uses radio waves to track and monitor tagged items, will provide them with additional verification points for agricultural products.

“This initiative will complement the existing tools of BPI, allowing us to be more proactive in ensuring the availability of safe, pest-free and disease-free agricultural commodities,” he said.

Panganiban said the BPI is continuously exploring technological solutions to bolster inspection and quarantine capabilities to prevent the proliferation of smuggled goods.

<https://business.inquirer.net/485418/govt-turns-to-rfid-to-screen-agri-imports>

REMATE:

8 lugar sa bansa positibo sa red tide

October 18, 2024 18:25



MANILA, Philippines – Nagpositibo sa paralytic shellfish poison o toxic red tide ang ilang probinsya a Visayas at Mindanao, higit sa regulatory limit nito, ayon sa Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

Sa abiso na inilabas nitong Miyerkules, Oktubre 16, sinabi na ang mga nakolektang shellfish sa mga sumusunod na lugar ay hindi ligtas na kainin:

Dumanquillas Bay sa Zamboanga del Sur
Coastal waters ng Daram Island, Samar
Zumarraga Island, Samar
Irong-Irong Bay, Samar
Carigara Bay sa Leyte
Coastal waters ng Tungawan sa Zamboanga Sibugay
Biliran Island sa Biliran Province
Liang Bay sa Surigao del Sur

Ang lahat ng uri ng shellfish o alamang na nakolekta mula sa mga nabanggit na lugar ay hindi ligtas kainin.

Sa kabila nito, maaari namang kainin ang mga isda, pusit, hipon, at alimango mula sa mga nabanggit na lugar “provided that they are fresh and washed thoroughly, and internal organs such as gills and intestines are removed before cooking.” *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/8-lugar-sa-bansa-positibo-sa-red-tide/>

REMATE:

Ligtas na pagkain sisiguruhin ng DA

October 18, 2024 15:49



MANILA, Philippines – Ang Bureau of Plant Industry ng Department of Agriculture ay lumagda sa isang Memorandum of Understanding sa FMC Research Solutions Inc. upang simulan ang isang pilot test program na naglalayong pahasayin ang kaligtasan at kalidad ng mga imported na produktong agrikultura.

Nabatid na ang partnership sa pagitan ng DA-BPI at FMC Research ay naglalayong gamitin ang makabagong teknolohiya para mapahusay ang mga proseso ng inspeksyon at matiyak ang pagsunod sa mga regulasyon sa kaligtasan ng pagkain upang matiyak ang kalusugan ng mga Pilipinong mamimili.

Ang BPI ay may tungkulin na ipatupad ang mga regulasyon sa kaligtasan ng pagkain at phytosanitary sa bansa, na mag-isyu ng mga clearance bago ang pag-aangkat upang mapangalagaan ang kalusugan ng tao.

Ang inisyatiba ay kritikal sa pagpigil sa pagpasok ng mga hindi ligtas na produkto ng pagkain at pagkontrol sa pagkalat ng mga potensyal na sakit na nauugnay sa mga pag-import.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi ng direktor ng BPI na si Gerald Glenn Panganiban na ang MOU kasama ang FMC Research ay naaayon sa pagsisikap ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. na i-digitize at i-streamline ang mga tungkulin ng DA at mga kaakibat nitong ahensya.

“Patuloy kaming tumitingin ng mga teknolohikal na solusyon upang palakasin ang aming mga kakayahan sa inspeksyon at kuwentenas, lalo na sa kamakailang pagsasabatas ng Anti-Agricultural Sabotage Act na nagbigay sa DA ng pinalawak na kapangyarihan upang labanan ang smuggling ng mga produktong pang-agrikultura,” sabi ni Director Panganiban.

Nabatid na ang FMC Research, isang kumpanya ng teknolohiyang pangregulasyon ng Filipino, ay dalubhasa sa pagbibigay ng komprehensibong sistema ng pagsubaybay sa lifecycle para sa mga imported na produktong pang-agrikultura.

Sa ilalim ng MOU, ang FMC Research ay magsasagawa ng pilot testing program nang walang karagdagang gastos sa gobyerno.

Ipinaliwanag ni Chua na ang pag-ampon ng teknolohiya ng FMC Research ay magpapaunlad ng higit na transparency sa pagsunod sa pag-import, na tinitiyak ang pinabuting kaligtasan at kalidad ng pagkain para sa mga mamimili. *Santi Celario*

<https://remate.ph/ligtas-na-pagkain-sisiguruhin-ng-da/>

ABANTE:

Shellfish ban kinasa sa 8 lugar

Abante News

- **October 19, 2024**



IPINAPATUPAD ngayon ang shellfish ban sa walong lugar sa bansa dulot ng pagkakaroon ng nakakalason na red tide o paralytic shellfish poison, ayon sa Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

“All types of shellfish and Acetes sp. or alamang gathered from these areas are NOT SAFE for human consumption,” ayon sa ahensya.

Ayon sa BFAR, sakop ng shellfish ban ang Dumanquillas Bay sa Zamboanga del Sur, Daram Island, Zumarraga Island, Irong-Irong Bay, Carigara Bay sa Leyte, Tungawan sa Zamboanga Sibugay, Biliran Island sa Biliran at Lianga Bay sa Surigao del Sur.

Maari naman anilang kainin ang isda, pusit, hipon at alimango basta't sariwa ito at nahugasang mabuti.

“Fish, squids, shrimps and crabs are safe for human consumption provided that they are fresh and washed thoroughly and internal organs, such as gills and intestines, are removed before cooking,” paalala pa nito. (CS)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/10/19/shellfish-ban-kinasa-sa-8-lugar/>

ABANTE:

35% taripa ng imported rice pinapabalik

Abante News

• **October 18, 2024**



Humihirit ang isang grupo ng magsasaka na ibalik na lamang sa dati ang halaga ng taripa ng bigas.

Ayon kay Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (SINAG) President Rosendo So, hindi pa rin kasi bumababa ang presyo ng bigas sa kabila ng pagbaba ng taripa sa imported rice. Sinabi ni So sa programang “Bardagulan” sa DWAR Abante Radyo na milyun-milyong kaban na ng bigas ang dumating sa bansa ngunit hindi naman bumababa ang presyo nito.

Dagdag pa ni So, nasa P6.5 bilyon na ang nawawala sa bansa dahil dito at aabot pa ito sa P12 bilyon sa pagtatapos ng taon.

Dahil dito, mas pipiliin umano nilang ibalik sa dati ang singil sa taripa.

Base sa Executive Order No. 62 na inilabas ng Malacañang, ibinaba sa 15% mula sa 35% ang taripa para sa mga imported na bigas.

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/10/18/35-taripa-ng-imported-rice-pinapabalik/>

ABANTE:

Presyo ng kamatis dumoble!

Abante News

- **October 18, 2024**



Lumobo ang presyo ng kamatis sa National Capital Region (NCR) dahil sa pinsalang dala ng paghagupit ng Bagyong Enteng, ayon sa Department of Agriculture (DA).

Pumasok ang naturang bagyo sa Philippine Area of Responsibility noong Setyembre 2024 at nagdulot ng matinding pinsala sa sektor ng agrikultura.

Sa panayam ng DWAR Abante Radyo sa mga tindera sa Nepa Q Mart sa Quezon City, mahigit doble ang itinaas ng presyo ng kamatis.

Umabot na sa P160 hanggang P180 kada kilo ang presyo ng kamatis mula sa P80 hanggang P90 na halaga nito noong nakaraang linggo.

Sa katunayan, maliit na lamang anila ang pinapatong ng mga nagtitinda sa presyo ng kamatis dahil P140 na kada kilo ito mula sa mga supplier.

Nabatid na bago ang hagupit ng Bagyong Enteng, sobra-sobra pa ang supply ng kamatis kaya't itinatapon at nabubulok na lamang ang mga ito.

Ipinangako naman ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. na lilimitahan na ang pagtatapon ng gulay sa susunod na taon. (Migo Fajatin)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/10/18/presyo-ng-kamatis-dumoble/>