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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **Tobacco farmers from Ilocos to attend int'l summit hosted by DA-NTA**

**BY FREDDIE LAZARO**

Oct 22, 2024 03:40 PM

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VIGAN CITY, Ilocos Sur – Top government and tobacco industry stakeholders in this province and the Ilocos region are set to gather for the two-day International Tobacco Agricultural Summit on Oct. 23 and 24 organized by the Department of Agriculture-National Tobacco Administration in Quezon City.



The summit, now on its second year, with the theme “Advancing the Local Tobacco Industry and Combating Illicit Trade” aims to address the growth of the Philippine tobacco industry and the challenges posed by illicit trade.

Expected to attend the event are Budget and Management Secretary Amenah Pangandaman, Internal Revenue Commissioner Romeo Lumagui Jr., Jericho Nograles, president of the Philippine Tobacco Institute, and Agriculture Undersecretary Deogracias Victor B. Savellano. The first day will focus on global trends, opportunities, and strategies to strengthen the Philippine tobacco sector’s growth in the global market.

The second day will delve on the scope of the illicit tobacco problem in the country, strengthening regional cooperation, and intensifying the enforcement actions of the Philippine government.

“The summit aims to underscore the importance of the local tobacco industry in the economy, explore opportunities for growth, and strengthen collaborative efforts to combat illicit tobacco trade,” NTA Administrator Belinda Sanchez said.

“It will serve as a platform for stakeholders from government and industry to discuss challenges and strategies for industry growth and improved enforcement against this illicit trade,” she added.

Sanchez said the event will also highlight policy measures, enforcement strategies, and potential collaborative efforts with industry stakeholders to address the issue effectively.

“The illicit tobacco trade remains a significant challenge, adversely impacting government revenues, public health, national security, and the livelihoods of Filipino farmers. The illegal trade undermines legitimate businesses and leads to substantial revenue losses, affecting resources for public services like universal health care,” Sanchez said.

“Moreover, proceeds from illegal tobacco sales are often linked to organized crimes, further threatening national security,” she added.

Sanchez noted that to counter these risks, there is an urgent need for a multi-faceted approach that includes strengthening national policies, enhancing regional cooperation, improving enforcement mechanisms, and increasing public awareness.

“A coordinated approach will help mitigate the impact of illicit trade, ensuring a more stable and secure environment for the tobacco industry,” she said.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue estimated that the national government incurred revenue losses of up to P100 billion annually due to illicit tobacco trade.

Data from the NTA showed there are 2.2 million Filipinos who are financially dependent on tobacco, including more than 430,000 farmers, farm workers, and their families.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/22/tobacco-farmers-from-ilocos-to-attend-int-l-summit-hosted-by-da-nta>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Philippines, Laos to ink agriculture pact next year

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

October 23, 2024 | 12:00am



**Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.**

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The government is looking at signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on agricultural cooperation with Laos next year to boost ties between the two Southeast Asian neighbors.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. recently met with his counterpart, Laos Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Linkham Doungsavanh, in Rome to discuss the revitalization of agricultural collaboration between the two countries.

During their bilateral meeting, the two ministers discussed a proposed MOU aimed at enhancing food security and promoting sustainable agricultural development between the Philippines and Laos.

“The proposed agreement marks a significant step forward in strengthening agricultural cooperation with our ASEAN partner, Laos,” Tiu Laurel said yesterday.

“It will provide a framework collaboration on a wide range of agricultural issues.”

Some of the initiatives that would be covered by the proposed MOU include knowledge sharing, establishment of a joint genetic bank for rice value chain improvement, sustainable water management, climate change mitigation, pest management and trade promotion, among others.

The two countries seek to bolster overall food security in the ASEAN region and improve various supply and value chains to ensure smooth flow of commodities across borders.

The Philippines and Laos also aim to intensify joint undertakings in developing strategies and measures to address the ill effects of climate change on agricultural productivity while tackling other agricultural challenges through shared research initiatives.

The MOU would also tackle trade facilitation of various agricultural products like rice, sugarcane and coffee between the two countries.

“The proposed agreement signals a commitment to fostering resilient agricultural sectors in both countries, ultimately aiming for a more secure and sustainable food future in the region,” the DA said.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/10/23/2394479/philippines-laos-ink-agriculture-pact-next-year>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Outstanding PCG units feted

[Alexis Romero](#) - The Philippine Star

October 23, 2024 | 12:00am



President Marcos and First Lady Liza Marcos take part in the 123rd anniversary rites of the Philippine Coast Guard from the BRP Gabriela Silang in Manila's South Harbor yesterday. The First Lady joined the PCG Auxiliary earlier this year with the honorary rank of vice admiral. Also in photo are Transportation Secretary Jaime Bautista and PCG commandant Admiral Ronnie Gil Gavan.

Noel Pabalate

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos yesterday reaffirmed his commitment to upgrade the capabilities of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) as he feted its outstanding personnel and units, including vessels that were recently harassed by Chinese ships in the West Philippine Sea.

In a speech during the PCG's 123rd anniversary in Manila, Marcos recognized the work of coast guard sailors, especially in the WPS, calling them “vigilant stewards of peace and order upon our seas” who ensure that the rule of law prevails in the country's waters.

“But to do this with the added weight of isolation, the dangers of unpredictable seas and the constant pressure of protecting our resources, then it becomes more than just

a job. It is a responsibility that speaks to the core of what it means to serve this country,” the President said.

“In the face of tension, it is your calm resolve that prevents disputes from turning into conflicts, demonstrating to the world that embracing dialogue and cooperation is the true essence of strength,” he added.

Marcos assured the PCG that it is never alone in its task to protect the nation and its people, rights and properties.

“This administration reaffirms its support for efforts that will improve your fleet and our air assets, as well, to maritime domain awareness, weapons capability and necessary infrastructure development. This will boost your capacity to respond to any operations,” he said.

“Be assured that you are never alone in carrying the weight of this mission. Therefore, I enjoin you to work with other concerned agencies in fulfilling your mandate of ensuring the safety of life and property at sea, protecting our environment and enforcing maritime laws,” he added.

At the same event, the Chief Executive led the awarding of 14 outstanding PCG personnel and units, including vessels that were bullied by the Chinese coast guard during their resupply missions in the WPS.

BRP Teresa Magbanua, which was rammed by Chinese ships in the vicinity of Escoda Shoal in August, was recognized as the 97-meter vessel of the year.

BRP Cabra, which was subjected to a water cannon attack in December last year while on a resupply mission to Ayungin Shoal, was awarded the 44-meter vessel of the year.

BRP Francisco Dagohoy, which delivered aid to fisherfolk in Pag-asa Island, was honored with the 50-meter vessel of the year award.

Also recognized during the anniversary celebration were the Coast Guard District Palawan as Coast Guard District of the Year, Coast Guard Station Batangas (Coast Guard Station of the Year “A”), Coast Guard Station Malacañang (Coast Guard Station of the Year “B”), Coast Guard Station Cavite (Coast Guard Station of the Year “C”), PO1 Totoh Jailani (Coast Guard non-officer of the year), Marianne Arias (Coast Guard Non-uniformed Personnel of the Year), Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (30 meter-vessel of the year), BRP Boracay (24-meter Vessel of the Year), LK1 Geoffrey Dasas (Coast Guard Lighthouse Keeper of the Year), PCG BN Islander 251 (PCG Aircraft of the Year) and CGAD STL (Best Auxiliary District AU).



First Lady and PCG Auxiliary Vice Admiral Liza Marcos, Transportation Secretary Jaime Bautista and PCG Commandant Admiral Ronnie Gil Gavan accompanied Marcos during the awarding.

## **‘Most significant’**

As the PCG turns 123 years old, it has transitioned from being “one of the weakest” to now being one of the “most significant Coast Guards in Southeast Asia.”

In his PCG anniversary speech, Gavan they are now considered as one of the most important Coast Guard agencies in this part of Asia.

“At 123 years, the Philippine Coast Guard has finally arrived. We are now where we envisioned ourselves many years ago – from seeking out the answers to the complex threats of being an archipelagic and maritime nation, we are now able to serve as frontliners in our nation’s organized engagements at sea,” he said.

Considered as the third uniformed armed service, the PCG faced many challenges during the year, especially during the conduct of resupply missions to the BRP Sierra Madre in Ayungin Shoal in the WPS, where it often faced a large contingent of Chinese vessels.

Since last year, PCG vessels have been chased, water cannoned, rammed and damaged; its personnel threatened and starved during the conduct of their missions – yet, they stood their ground.

“The past year has been another test of will, perseverance and resilience for the Philippine Coast Guard. The courage, dedication to duty and patriotism that the men and women of the PCG have demonstrated in fulfilling our mandates, particularly in the West Philippine Sea, will be forever etched in the pillars of our history,” Gavan said.

He added that in spite of their limited resources, the PCG was able to effectively perform its mandates.

“More importantly, we continue to be present at the frontline and uphold the integrity of our territory, sovereignty and jurisdiction based on international law, including the UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea), the Arbitral Award, international conventions and the national law,” Gavan said.

“We were able to maintain peace – through law and with dignity. We have stood our ground calmly and professionally – our nation and the Filipino people have prevailed as what our forebears professed we should be,” he added.

This year’s PCG anniversary carried the theme “PCG@ 123: Matatag, Handa at Maasahan Tungo sa Mapayapa at Mapanatag na Bagong Pilipinas.”

## Successful missions

Showing China again that it will not be deterred, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday reassured the public that the military would continue to protect the country's interests and has dramatically increased its presence and activities in the WPS.

In fact, the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Air Force (PAF) conducted 62 successful patrol missions "to reinforce the security and sovereignty of our waters" from Oct. 1 to 18.

AFP spokesperson Col. Francel Magareth Padilla said these include two sealift missions, 14 maritime patrols and/or sovereignty patrols, a maritime surveillance patrol, a medical evacuation and two rotation and resupply missions by the military's naval vessels.

Padilla added that naval and PAF aircraft also executed four maritime air surveillance and/or intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations and 40 maritime patrol missions.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines remains steadfast in its commitment to safeguarding our nation's maritime interests, especially in the West Philippine Sea," she announced at a press briefing at Camp Aguinaldo.

"These patrols strengthen our monitoring of activities in the West Philippine Sea while ensuring seamless support for operations like maritime domain awareness, medical evacuation and resupply missions," Padilla said.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines stands resolute in its mandate to uphold territorial integrity, maritime sovereignty and regional stability while serving and protecting the interests of all Filipinos," she added.

Rear Admiral Roy Vincent Trinidad, Philippine Navy spokesman for the WPS, said the AFP is recalibrating its approach as "we are now focusing on the activities being conducted by the Armed Forces."

"We are still monitoring the illegal presence of the PLA (People's Liberation Army) Navy, the (China) Coast Guard and the maritime militia. However, we would like to expand the coverage and to look at trends on a monthly basis, not on a weekly basis," Trinidad explained, referring to how previous weekly reports on the number of Chinese vessels that have been spotted inside the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) are no longer being released to the media and the public in general.

He said the recalibration is being conducted pursuant to President Marcos' directives for the military to shift from internal security to external or territorial defense and

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr.'s recent announcement of the Comprehensive Archipelagic Defense Concept (CADC).

Trinidad noted there is now an increase in the AFP's activities in the WPS and more focus is being given to Escoda (Sabina) Shoal and Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, also known as Bajo de Masinloc.

"For Escoda Shoal, the presence of the AFP is there. It is not a constant presence that the ship is anchored or not leaving; we have already given more coverage, not only to Escoda, but also to Bajo de Masinloc by different means, physical presence or by other monitoring means," he said.

He added that "the overall picture is that after the pronouncement by the secretary of national defense that we will be instituting a comprehensive archipelagic defense concept, the AFP recalibrated its approach in the West Philippine Sea.

"A lot, I would say majority, if not all, of the strategic assets of the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Air Force are now geared toward protecting, securing and monitoring all the way up to our EEZ, that includes the West Philippine Sea. So yes, there has been a dramatic increase in our activities in the West Philippine Sea after the pronouncement of (Secretary Teodoro)," Trinidad said.

He added that there also has been no untoward incidents or cases of harassment in the WPS coming from Chinese vessels on the part of the AFP since June 17, but stressed that the continuing presence of PLAN, CCG and maritime militia vessels inside the country's EEZ is still illegal. — **Evelyn Macairan, Michael Punongbayan, Pia Lee-brago, Neil Jayson Servallos**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/10/23/2394581/outstanding-pcg-units-feted>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Kristine triggers floods, landslides, blackouts

By: [The Inquirer Staff and Bureaus](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:40 AM October 23, 2024



**STOPPED** Commuters are stopped by rampaging floodwater that swamped a road at Barangay Batasan in Makilala, Cotabato, on Tuesday morning amid heavy rains dumped by Tropical Storm “Kristine.” —Frederick Gozon/Contributor

MANILA, Philippines — Many areas in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao have started experiencing the adverse effects of Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami) that has triggered floods and landslides, forced thousands to flee their homes, caused the suspension of sea travel that stranded hundreds of passengers and vessels in seaports, and halted classes, work and business activities.

The situation could get worse, warned disaster response officials, as the full impact of the weather disturbance has yet to be felt in localities where it was expected to hit land—either in Isabela on Wednesday or in Aurora on Thursday.

As of noon Tuesday, heavy rains spawned by Kristine already inundated a number of localities in Bicol (Albay, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Sorsogon, Masbate and

Catanduanes), Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Quezon and Rizal) and Mimaropa (Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan), all in Luzon; Bohol and Cebu in Central Visayas; Negros Occidental in Negros Island Region; Leyte and Samar provinces in Eastern Visayas; and Maguindanao del Sur, Maguindanao del Norte, Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat in Mindanao.

Many of these areas have still to provide the exact number of evacuated residents but in the Maguindanao provinces alone, some 300,000 families have to be brought to shelters on Tuesday after days of rains inundated most villages, authorities said.

The trough of Kristine was causing heavy downpour in the Maguindanao provinces, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani. It was also affecting the provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, and the Zamboanga Peninsula, threatening to bring floods in low-lying areas and landslides in mountainous areas, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

One person went missing in Leyte while his two companions were rescued when their boat broke down in the waters off Merida town on Monday, the Philippine Coast Guard has reported.

## **Outages**

Power outages in Eastern Visayas have hit several areas in Samar, including Catbalogan City, as well as parts of Biliran, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar and Leyte, including some areas in Tacloban City.

By late afternoon of Tuesday, Albay province and Magpet town in Cotabato have declared a state of calamity to quickly respond to the needs of displaced residents and clear roads affected by landslides and floods.

Pagasa, in its 5 p.m. bulletin, said “Kristine” slightly intensified over the Philippine Sea east of Bicol region. It was forecast to become a severe tropical storm before making landfall over Isabela in Cagayan Valley or northern Aurora in Central Luzon

on Wednesday or early Thursday. It would then cross the mountainous terrain of Northern Luzon and emerge over the waters west of Ilocos region on Thursday afternoon or evening and may reach typhoon category while over the West Philippine Sea and before leaving the Philippine area of responsibility on Friday.

## **Mobilized**

As of 5 p.m., “Kristine” was 390 kilometers east of Daet, Camarines Norte, packing a maximum sustained winds of 75 kilometers per hour (km/h) near the center and gustiness of up to 90 km/h while moving west northwest at 15 km/h.

Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla, at a press briefing in Malacañang on Tuesday, said he advised the local government units (LGUs) in Luzon to suspend classes in all levels until Wednesday in anticipation of the weather disturbance’s impact.

“All units have been mobilized, all local government units have been informed ... All LGUs, all civil defense units have been alerted and I think we’re prepared,” he said.

In-person classes in more than 17,000 schools in 12 regions had been ordered suspended since Monday, the Department of Education (DepEd) said on Tuesday.

Based on the latest DepEd data, the class suspensions involved 17,764 schools with 7.38 million student population.

At least four public schools were submerged in floods—two in Ormoc City, Leyte; and a school each in Sorsogon City and another in Cajidiocan town in Romblon.

The country’s agriculture sector may also suffer another blow as the Department of Agriculture (DA) estimated that “Kristine” could damage more than a million hectares of farmland, primarily planted to rice.

The DA said in a bulletin Monday that the projection was based on the combined data from Cordillera, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Eastern Visayas and Caraga.

Pagasa has raised Signal No. 2 over Catanduanes and placed most parts of Luzon, the whole Eastern Visayas and the provinces of Dinagat Islands and Surigao del Norte in Mindanao under Signal No. 1.

More than 20 flights in Luzon and Visayas were also canceled on Tuesday, affecting more than a thousand passengers, according to the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines. —*with reports from Julie M. Aurelio, Jerome Aning, Jordeene Lagare, Kathleen De Villa, Ma. April Mier-Manjares, Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Rey Anthony Ostria, Clarence Roi Gillego, Madonna T. Virola, Carla P. Gomez, Leo Udtohan, Joey Gabieta, Williamor A. Magbanua and Edwin O. Fernandez*

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1995589/kristine-triggers-floods-landslides-blackouts>



**BUSINESS WORLD:**

# Red tape blamed for low hog vaccination rates

October 22, 2024 | 9:09 pm



REUTERS

HOG FARMERS said burdensome documentation requirements have delayed their participation in the government's limited rollout of the African Swine Fever (ASF) vaccine.

Alfred Ng, vice-chairman of the National Federation of Hog Farmers, Inc., said: "Many backyard farmers are having difficulty in securing the necessary documentation for the trials."

Mr. Ng added that some local government units are not aware of the vaccine trials hindering further expansion of the program.

"Most ASF outbreak areas have disposed of their pigs... and do not have enough samples to be involved in these trials," he said via Viber.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) recently included commercial hog farms in its vaccine trials to increase the number of inoculated hogs.

Administrative Circular No. 8 opened up the trials to commercial farms and swine herds covered by the Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion Program. It cited the "low participation rate of smallhold farms."

The DA allocated P350 million to procure 600,000 doses for hog farmers initially targeted. The rollout started on Aug. 30 in Lobo, Batangas.



The AVAC ASF Live vaccine from Vietnam has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for a limited government-controlled rollout. It issued a Certificate of Product Registration for AVAC, valid for two years, and subject to monitoring and annual evaluation.

“We still believe in DA’s controlled vaccine trials and they should not be hurried... We need to ensure that the vaccine is proven to be safe and effective,” Mr. Ng added.

He said that commercial hog farms may not readily participate in the vaccine program given the government requirements, which include blood tests and constant monitoring of the hogs.

The DA has said that it takes about three weeks to blood-test hogs before they can be given the ASF vaccine. The development of antibodies is also expected to take a few weeks.

Mr. Ng added: “We all pray for an effective vaccine that will be safe and not harmful to our already beleaguered swine industry. We hope that these trials do not create a mutated strain that is more difficult to control and contain.”

As of Oct. 18, 108 municipalities across 25 provinces had active ASF cases, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/10/22/630035/red-tape-blamed-for-low-hog-vaccination-rates/>

**REMATE:**

# Higit 1M ektarya ng bigas, mais maaapektuhan ng hagupit ni ‘Kristine’

October 23, 2024 07:13



MANILA, Philippines – Hinimok ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang mga magsasaka sa ilang rehiyon na maapektuhan ng Tropical Storm Kristine na magsagawa ng mga hakbang na naglalayong maiwasan ang pagkalugi habang papalapit ang gulo ng panahon.

Sa situation bulletin nito, sinabi ng DA na umabot sa 1,311,024 ektarya ang lawak ng mga pananim na maaaring maapektuhan ni Kristine, kung saan 1,103,582 ektarya ay para sa palay at 207,442 ektarya ay para sa mais.

Sinabi ng DA na ang bilang sa mga nasabing pananim ay batay sa pinagsamang datos mula sa Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Regions I, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, V, VIII at XIII noong Oktubre 15, 2024

Para sa palay, ang lugar na nasa ilalim ng seedling at vegetative stage ay nasa 160,344 hectares o 14.53%, habang ang area under reproductive stage ay nasa 452,123 hectares o 40.97%, ayon sa DA.

Ang lugar na nasa ilalim ng maturity stage para sa bigas ay nag-aambag sa natitirang 491,115 ektarya o 44.50%.

“Para naman sa mais, ang lawak ng mga pananim sa ilalim ng seedling at vegetative stage ay nasa 19,062 hectares (9.19%), habang ang area under reproductive stage ay nasa 40,193 hectares (19.38%),” sabi ng DA.

“Ang mga nasa ilalim ng maturity stage ay nag-aambag sa natitirang 148,187 ektarya (71.44%),” dagdag nito.

Pinapayuhan ng Kagawaran ng Agrikultura ang mga magsasaka at maging ang mga mangingisda na gawin ang mga sumusunod na hakbang sa paghahanda:

-Manatiling updated sa weather updates na inilabas ng PAGASA at Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office

-Mag-ani ng mga mature na pananim at magpakilos ng mga kagamitan at pasilidad pagkatapos ng pag-aani

-I-secure ang mga reserbang binhi, mga materyales sa pagtanim at iba pang mga input ng sakahan sa ligtas at maayos na mga lugar na imbakan

-Ilipat ang mga makinarya sa sakahan, kagamitan at iba pang kagamitan sa sakahan sa mas mataas na lugar

-I-secure ang sapat na feed at tubig para sa mga inilipat na hayop

-I-clear ang drainage sa irigasyon at mga palayan mula sa mga sagabal upang maiwasan ang pagbaha at itaguyod ang mabilis na pag-agos ng tubig.

Dagdag pa ng DA, pinayuhan ang mga mangingisda na huwag pumunta sa dagat at gumawa ng mga hakbang sa pag-iingat kung talagang kailangan nilang lumabas sa panahon ng masamang panahon. *RNT*

<https://remate.ph/higit-1m-ektarya-ng-bigas-mais-maaapektuhan-ng-hagupit-ni-kristine/>

**REMATE:**

# Kahandaan sa epekto ni ‘Kristine’ tiniyak ng NIA

October 22, 2024 17:07



MANILA, Philippines- Tiniyak ng National Irrigation Administration (NIA) nitong Martes ang paghahanda ng ahensya sa posibleng epekto ni Tropical Depression Kristine.

Sa Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas briefing, sinabi ni NIA Administrator Eduardo Guillen na inatasan ang regional offices upang agad na magbigay ng tulong sa mga maapektuhang magsasaka.

“Of course, ang ating utos ngayon sa regional directors na i-advise iyong mga farmers natin na harvest early,” pahayag niya.

“Iyong mga malalaking dams natin kapag mapupuno na... mag-pre-release sila para kapag may malakas man na ulan, makatulong pa rin,” dagdag ng opisyal.

Ginarantiya ni Guillen ang availability ng P300 milyong quick response fund sakaling kailanganin ng rehabilitasyon o pagkumpuni sa irrigation facilities.

Bukod dito, maaari rin umanong ma-access ng mga magsasaka ang indemnity sa ilalim ng Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation.

Batay sa Department of Agriculture-Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Operations Center, halos 1.311 milyong ektarya ng standing crops ang maaaring maapektuhan sa Cordillera at Ilocos Regions, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol Region, Eastern Visayas, at Caraga. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/kahandaan-sa-epekto-ni-kristine-tiniyak-ng-nia/>

**REMATE:**

## **DA sa mga magsasaka: Mga tanim anihin na bago mag-landfall si Kristine**

October 22, 2024 10:41



MANILA, Philippines – Nanawagan ang Department of Agriculture (DA) nitong Lunes, Oktubre 21 sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda na anihin na ang kanilang mga pananim bago pa man mag-landfall ang Tropical Depression Kristine.

Sa abiso, sinabi ng DA sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda na anihin na ang mga mature crops at gamitin ang post-harvest equipment at mga pasilidad. Dagdag pa nito, pinaghahanda na rin ang mga magsasaka na ilipat ang kanilang mga makinarya, at iba pang kagamitan patungo sa matataas na lugar.

Inabisuhan din nito ang mga magsasaka na magtago ng mga punla, planting materials, at iba pang farm inputs patungo sa mga ligtas na lugar.

Pinalilinis din ang mga irigasyon at palayan, at siguruhin ang sapat na pagkain at tubig sa mga ililikas na hayop.

Sa ulat, inaasahang lalakas bilang isang bagyo ang Tropical Depression Kristine sa mga susunod na oras at posibleng mag-landfall sa hilagang Luzon pagsapit ng Huwebes. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/da-sa-mga-magsasaka-mga-tanim-anihin-na-bago-mag-landfall-si-kristine/>



**PEOPLE'S JOURNAL:**

## **SEARCA sets Oct. 31 deadline for research, training seed fund application**

Tuesday, October 22, 2024 SEARCA



The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) has set October 31, 2024 as the deadline for applications for its Seed Fund for Research and Training (SFRT).

The seed fund provides support of up to US\$15,000 for research and training projects.

SFRT is open to Southeast Asian researchers, scientists, and academic professionals who have limited funds for their research or training proposals.

The applicants' proposed projects should align with SEARCA's strategic goals, reflect regional significance, and demonstrate clear benefits to Southeast Asia's agricultural sector.

As such, the topic of proposed projects must fall within SEARCA's priority areas, namely, agri-business models for increased productivity and income, sustainable farming systems and natural resource management, food and nutrition security, transformational leadership for agricultural and rural development (ARD), gender and youth engagement in ARD, enhanced ARD towards climate resilience, and EcoHealth or One Health applications to ARD.

“We believe in the power of research and innovation to transform agriculture across Southeast Asia,” said SEARCA Center Director Dr. Glenn Gregorio.

“Through SFRT, we are not only supporting researchers in the field but also encouraging regional collaboration to address critical challenges in food security, climate resilience, and agricultural development,” Dr. Gregorio said.

Applications must be submitted via the Grants Information System portal in the SEARCA website.

“Through our capacity-building, research, innovation, and knowledge-sharing programs, SEARCA has been at the forefront of advancing ARD in Southeast Asia for 58 years. In the next five years our development efforts will focus on carbon-WISE agriculture: Winnable Innovative Solutions for the Environment,” Dr. Gregorio affirmed.

<https://journal.com.ph/searca-sets-oct-31-deadline-for-research-training-seed-fund-application/>



**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# **PH, Laos discuss agri devt in Rome, eye cooperation**

**By Janine Alexis Miguel**

**October 23, 2024**

RICE development was a key discussion point between the Philippines and Laos at the World Food Forum held October 14 in Rome.

The two Southeast Asian countries, represented by Philippine Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. and Lao People's Democratic Republic Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Linkham Douangsavanh, proposed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote agricultural cooperation, specifically to establish a joint genetic bank to develop rice production.

The proposal will provide a framework for collaboration on a wide range of agricultural issues," Tiu Laurel told reporters on Tuesday, explaining that the genetic bank will push for innovation in crop cultivation.

In general, the talks sought to enhance food security and sustainable agricultural development across Southeast Asia.

Other points discussed were value chain improvement of various agricultural products including rice, corn, coffee, fruit trees, tea, livestock and fisheries; and facilitating trade in sugarcane and coffee; and sustainable water management in agriculture, research and development, and climate change mitigation.

The MoU will be finalized by 2025.

At the World Food Forum, the Philippines presented a strategic investment plan focusing on four commodities: abaca, bamboo, mango and seaweed.

The Filipino delegation included teams in official development assistance, agribusiness investment, international affairs and export development.

[https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/23/business/top-business/ph-laos-discuss-agri-devt-in-rome-eye-cooperation/1989280?fbclid=IwY2xjawGLwptleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHaHAvLjz1fraN NzMNy2Rzao\\_9vqfvRYnG6ALTZMw FWoFaowm-7YjbsVSw\\_aem\\_KazvMT\\_65Pf\\_9g5jPLbRkg](https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/23/business/top-business/ph-laos-discuss-agri-devt-in-rome-eye-cooperation/1989280?fbclid=IwY2xjawGLwptleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHaHAvLjz1fraN NzMNy2Rzao_9vqfvRYnG6ALTZMw FWoFaowm-7YjbsVSw_aem_KazvMT_65Pf_9g5jPLbRkg)

## **BUSINESS MIRROR:**

# ‘Cheaper rice boosts consumption better’

[Cai U. Ordinario](#)

[October 23, 2024](#)

MORE than holiday spending or rate cuts, cheaper rice prices will help boost the growth of household consumption in the last quarter of the year, according to a local economist.

In a virtual briefing on Tuesday, Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) Senior Vice President and Lead Economist Emilio S. Neri Jr. told reporters that household final consumption expenditure (HFCE) is weak because rice prices are expensive and decreased the consumption for other products.

As the country’s food staple, rice, Neri explained, is a “giffen good” that defies the standards of the law of demand. These non-luxury goods see an increase in demand even if their prices are high.

“We need to see more declines in the price of rice for us to see more than 5-percent growth in household consumption again. Kasi nga, nagbago na yung consumption habits ng Filipinos tapos ang mahal-mahal pa ng rice, doon na lang halos napupunta ang budget, especially for the lower income classes,” Neri explained.

“Even if they bring down to zero the interest rates, I don’t see how the middle- and the low-income classes can afford to spend more on other things if the price of rice remains expensive. Kumbaga, it’s a precondition for us to see faster growth in household consumption,” he added.

In his discussion, Neri said when giffen goods are expensive, it leaves little to no room for spending for other goods. He illustrated this with a hypothetical P1,000 household budget.

Using this budget and considering rice prices of P40 per kilo and meat prices of P300 per kilo, households can buy 2 kilos of meat and 10 kilos of rice.

If rice prices increase to P50, it's possible that households will decide to buy less of meat products and more of the rice to somehow make up for the decrease in meat consumption.

Should this happen, Neri's illustration showed that households may opt to purchase only 1.5 kilos of meat amounting to P450 and 11 kilos of rice worth P550. This will still be covered by a household budget of P1,000.

"When the price of rice goes up, we don't really switch to another type of staple or to more meat. Because we won't feel full. Especially when rice is very hot, you feel very full after you eat," Neri said, partly in Filipino.

The weakness in household consumption will not be enough to make it one of the key economic drivers of the economy in the coming quarters. This is also the reason for BPI's expectations that growth in 2024 will only average 6.1 percent.

HFCE posted a 4.6-percent growth in the first and second quarters of the year. This is considered the slowest since the first quarter of 2021 when household consumption contracted 4.8 percent.

Nonetheless, BPI expects GDP to grow faster at 6.3 percent in 2025 as inflation may settle at 3.2 percent in 2024 and 2.8 percent in 2025. These figures will also make the country outperform the region.

In its World Economic Outlook, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is also less bullish about the country's GDP growth, which it expects will average 5.8 percent this year and 6.1 percent next year.

Inflation, the IMF said, will likely average 3.3 percent this year and 3 percent next year. It added that the unemployment rate will remain at 4.4 percent and average 5.2 percent next year.

"Inflation is expected to be more manageable in the coming year given the improving prospects of food supply. With El Niño now behind us and the potential increase in production, along with tariff reductions, rice may become more affordable," BPI said.

"Global commodity prices may also remain stable amid the economic slowdown in China. However, upside risks to inflation remain, particularly the threat of La Niña and African Swine Fever among others," it added.

Meanwhile, a gradual reduction in the policy rate also aligns with the BSP's long-term goal of cutting the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) to zero. This reform is crucial as it allows the banks to allocate their resources more efficiently, which could lead to more lending.

Lower RRR also helps the local banks compete better with foreign financial institutions, as the latter are not subject to such archaic banking rules. Cutting the policy rate gradually gives the BSP the flexibility it needs to reach its RRR target in a shorter timeframe.

BPI said the gradual reduction also gives the BSP the time to rebuild its GIR, which today is not even 85 percent of the country's total external debt.

Meanwhile, the peso may strengthen in the coming year, as the country's current account deficit could remain manageable, but could remain sensitive to the actions of the US Federal Reserve next year.

Based on historical experience, it seems the Peso has the tendency to strengthen when the Fed eases its monetary policy, as excess Dollar liquidity brought by the rate cuts usually flows to emerging markets like the Philippines.

However, while a Fed cut might lead to Peso appreciation, its gains are likely to be smaller compared to other emerging market currencies given the current account deficit of the country.

[https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/23/cheaper-rice-boosts-consumption-better/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGLwqBleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHaHAvLjz1fraNNzMNy2Rzao\\_9vqfvRYnG6ALTZMw\\_FWoFaowm-7YjbsVSw\\_aem\\_KazvMT\\_65Pf\\_9g5jPLbRkg](https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/23/cheaper-rice-boosts-consumption-better/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGLwqBleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHaHAvLjz1fraNNzMNy2Rzao_9vqfvRYnG6ALTZMw_FWoFaowm-7YjbsVSw_aem_KazvMT_65Pf_9g5jPLbRkg)

## **BUSINESS MIRROR:**

# **Marcos administration enacts landmark law to tackle agricultural cartels and smuggling**

BusinessMirror  
October 23, 2024

The Marcos administration enacted one of the most important measures that could improve the competitiveness of the country's agriculture sector last month. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed Republic Act (RA) 12022, or the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act (AGES), on September 26 (see “New law will dismantle cartels behind smuggling of agri goods,” BusinessMirror, September 27, 2024). The primary objective of the law is to dismantle cartels behind the smuggling and hoarding of agricultural products and to prevent profiteers from taking advantage of supply tightness.

RA 12022 prescribed several strategies to deter smuggling and cartel activities, including the establishment of the daily price index (DPI) and the creation of Anti-Agricultural Economic Council, which is chaired by the President. Of the strategies indicated in RA 12022, the most far-reaching is the creation of the DPI. The law defined DPI as a system of monitoring and publishing or broadcasting the prevailing retail prices of agricultural and fishery products in all regions of the country on a day-to-day basis.

Section 5 of AGES mandates the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance (AMAS) and the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) to establish, strengthen and maintain a DPI. The law also indicated that the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), in consultation with the National Tobacco Administration, will set a minimum price for the sale of tobacco products. The minimum retail price will take into account the applicable taxes, reasonable production cost, and trade margins for the lowest priced brands registered with the BIR.

In coming up with the prices, the AMAS and BAR are directed to ensure that the DPI exhibits transparency and accountability. The two agencies attached to the DA are required to publish the DPI on their official websites and social media platforms.

They are also subject to a periodic audit by an independent party to be decided by the council.

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the United States Department of Agriculture noted in a report last week that DPI serves as a reference in determining whether economic sabotage is committed. Chapter 3, section 7 of the law indicates that economic sabotage is committed when the value of each or of the combination of agricultural and fishery products by individuals or groups is at least P10 million using the DPI as basis.

The law specifies that DA, AMAS and BAR must be able to develop the index within 90 days from the effectivity of the law. Of the initial amount of P500 million mandated by the law to be allocated for the implementation of RA 12022, 10 percent will go to the creation and maintenance of DPI. The lion's share of the initial amount was allocated for the Enforcement Group.

The index will not only help farmers, but also consumers, who will ultimately pay the price for the lack of scruples of some traders. Congress has given the concerned agencies the necessary resources and prescribed the period for establishing it. We hope that the DA and its attached agencies will be able to comply with the law and put in place a key measure that aims to give the government more weapons to fight the scourge that is smuggling.

[https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/23/marcos-administration-enacts-landmark-law-to-tackle-agricultural-cartels-and-smuggling/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGLwqpleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHQz5COHaXT\\_mz43OkjltrHMVwgvspZ1Jjign1zvu\\_axEDGIprcD6xoD2g\\_aem\\_N54KM-ILOTzoIR8nKmDokA](https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/23/marcos-administration-enacts-landmark-law-to-tackle-agricultural-cartels-and-smuggling/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGLwqpleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHQz5COHaXT_mz43OkjltrHMVwgvspZ1Jjign1zvu_axEDGIprcD6xoD2g_aem_N54KM-ILOTzoIR8nKmDokA)

**ABANTE TONITE:**

# Maraming palayan sapol ng mga bagyo – Agri usec

ABANTE TONITE

October 23, 2024



Bumagsak ng halos 12% ang produksyon ng palay sa bansa nitong third quarter ng taon sa 3.35 milyong tonelada dahil nasalanta ng mga bagyo ang maraming palayan, sabi ng Department of Agriculture (DA) gamit ang datos ng Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

Ayon sa DA, magiging mas malaki pa ang ibinagsak ng produksyon kung hindi lang naging mas marami ang naani sa bawat ektarya gamit ang mas magandang binhi, mga makinarya at iba pang mga suporta sa ilalim ng Rice Fund.

Sa kabila ng mas kaunting produksyon, umaasa si Agriculture Undersecretary Christopher Morales na matatapos ang taon na may 3.83 milyong toneladang bigas ang bansa na sapat para sa 100 araw na konsumo.

Ayon kay Morales, umaabot na sa 358,000 toneladang bigas ang nawala dahil sa mga bagyo kaya't 19.41 milyong tonelada na lamang ng palay ang inaasahan nitong magiging ani sa buong taon. Katumbas ito ng 12.69 milyong toneladang bigas. (Eileen Mencias)

[https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/10/23/maraming-palayan-sapol-ng-mga-bagyo-agri-usec/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGLwrBleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHQz5COHaXT\\_mz43OkjltcrHMVwgvspZ1Jjgn1zvu\\_axEDGIprcD6xoD2g\\_aem\\_N54KM-ILOTzoIR8nKuDokA](https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/10/23/maraming-palayan-sapol-ng-mga-bagyo-agri-usec/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGLwrBleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHQz5COHaXT_mz43OkjltcrHMVwgvspZ1Jjgn1zvu_axEDGIprcD6xoD2g_aem_N54KM-ILOTzoIR8nKuDokA)



**PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:**

# **NFA, Nueva Ecija LGU, sanib-pwersa sa pagbili ng palay**

Christian Ryan Sta. Ana  
October 23, 2024 | 12:00am

NUEVA ECIIJA, Philippines — Nagsanib-pwersa na sa pagbili ng palay sa lalawigan ito ang National Food Authority (NFA) at ang Pamahalaang Panlalawigan sa layuning maraming magsasakang Novo Ecijano ang makinabang sa mataas na presyo ng palay ngayong anihan.

Dahil dito, lumagda sa isang Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) sina Nueva Ecija Gov. Aurelio “Oyie” Umali at Dr. Larry Lacson, acting administrator ng NFA nitong Lunes (October 21).

Kasama rin sa mga lumagda sina Atty. Jose Ma. San Pedro, Nueva Ecija Provincial Tourism Officer; Provincial Administrator Atty. Alejandro Abesamis; Jeffrey Paraton, acting Regional Manager ng NFA, Jay Mark Malvar Acting Provincial Manager ng NFA Nueva Ecija.

Ayon kay Dr. Lacson, ang NFA at PGNE ay nagkasundong magsama upang mas maraming palay ang mabili sa mga magsasaka sa lalawigan ng Nueva Ecija. Malaking tulong din aniya ang maibibigay ng paggamit ng Rice Processing Center (RPC) ng Kapitolyo na matatagpuan sa Barangay, Culong, sa bayan ng Guimba, Nueva Ecija.

Ang RPC ay binubuo ng mechanical dryer, grain silos, rice mill, truck at truckscale na makakatulong sa NFA na mapabilis ang pagpapatuyo at paggiling ng mga binili nitong palay mula sa mga magsasaka sa lalawigan.

Sinabi rin ni Lacson na bumibili sila ng palay sa mas mataas na presyo kumpara sa mga rice trader.

[https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2024/10/23/2394580/nfa-nueva-ecija-lgu-sanib-pwersa-sa-pagbili-ng-palay?fbclid=IwY2xjawGLwrRleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHVHyCS9boUO3mHB6dw-mF4XX-WpdIZyQuP4bP7D5PLxfvVQS\\_BigsTgBgQ\\_aem\\_avisc23vP1aqxE3IlulI\\_w](https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2024/10/23/2394580/nfa-nueva-ecija-lgu-sanib-pwersa-sa-pagbili-ng-palay?fbclid=IwY2xjawGLwrRleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHVHyCS9boUO3mHB6dw-mF4XX-WpdIZyQuP4bP7D5PLxfvVQS_BigsTgBgQ_aem_avisc23vP1aqxE3IlulI_w)