

CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY OCTOBER 28, 2024

A. MANILA BULLETIN:

Trucks of rice relief reach Naga—PBBM

B. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Local rice still cheaper than imported – DA

Philippines dairy output to swell by 10 percent this year – USDA

Singapore, Malaysia, other nations assist in Kristine relief operations

158 areas under state of calamity

C. BUSINESS WORLD:

Dairy imports expected to grow next year

China's five-year plan seeks to boost food output

Agriculture 'most problematic' area in India-EU free trade talks, German economy minister says

D. MANILA STANDARD

DA calls on farmers to adopt safety measures

DepEd calling for the public's support of farm schools

E. BUSINESS MIRROR

DA: Tropical storm damage to agri sector hits ₱3.11B

Researchers explain how typhoons lose strength

DA keen on food monitoring system of FMC Research

Global food security at risk as geopolitical tensions escalate

MANILA BULLETIN:

Trucks of rice relief reach Naga—PBBM

BY [BETHEENA UNITE](#)

Oct 27, 2024 01:23 PM

Four trucks of rice have reached Naga, Camarines Sur on Sunday morning, Oct. 27, to aid families heavily affected by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine, President Marcos said.



Rice relief

for Naga, Camarines Sur (Photo courtesy of PCO)

The rice relief came from the National Food Authority (NFA) and Food Terminal Incorporated (FTI), according to Marcos.

He added the rice relief was sent following his directive to continue sending help to Bicol Region, which was heavily hit by the typhoon.

"Early this morning, four trucks from the National Food Authority and Food Terminal Incorporated arrived in Naga to help families affected by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine," Marcos said on Sunday afternoon.

"Right now, it's about making sure families in Camarines Sur have what they need to begin getting back on their feet. By air, land, or sea, we'll keep the support coming," the President added.

During his visit in Naga City over the weekend, Marcos said systems are in place to help Bicolanos affected by the severe tropical storm.

“Mayroon naman tayong sistema para tulungan lahat yung mga naging biktima (We have a system to help all victims of the typhoon). And all of that is in place,” he said.

[More than 380,000 individuals were affected by typhoon Kristine in Bicol Region](#), the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said.

Of this, more than 12,600 individuals or 3,100 families were displaced and temporarily staying at 306 evacuation centers.

Four trucks of rice have reached Naga, Camarines Sur on Sunday morning, Oct. 27, to aid families heavily affected by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine, President Marcos said.



Rice relief

for Naga, Camarines Sur (Photo courtesy of PCO)

The rice relief came from the National Food Authority (NFA) and Food Terminal Incorporated (FTI), according to Marcos.

He added the rice relief was sent following his directive to continue sending help to Bicol Region, which was heavily hit by the typhoon.

"Early this morning, four trucks from the National Food Authority and Food Terminal Incorporated arrived in Naga to help families affected by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine," Marcos said on Sunday afternoon.

"Right now, it's about making sure families in Camarines Sur have what they need to begin getting back on their feet. By air, land, or sea, we'll keep the support coming," the President added.

During his visit in Naga City over the weekend, Marcos said systems are in place to help Bicolanos affected by the severe tropical storm.

“Mayroon naman tayong sistema para tulungan lahat yung mga naging biktima (We have a system to help all victims of the typhoon). And all of that is in place,” he said.

[More than 380,000 individuals were affected by typhoon Kristine in Bicol Region](#), the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said.

Of this, more than 12,600 individuals or 3,100 families were displaced and temporarily staying at 306 evacuation centers.

https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/27/trucks-of-rice-relief-reaches-naga-palace#google_vignette

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Local rice still cheaper than imported – DA

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

October 28, 2024 | 12:00am



Workers unloaded sacks of rice at the ACT-CIS Partylist office in Quezon City on October 25, 2024.

Miguel De Guzman / The Philippine STAR

MANILA, Philippines — Local rice remains cheaper by P3 per kilo compared to imported grains, despite the devastation brought by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine and the flooding of at least 3.6 million metric tons of imported rice, the Department of Agriculture said.

Based on DA latest monitoring in Metro Manila markets, the retail prices of local regular milled rice ranged between P42 and P47 per kilo compared to the retail price of imported regular milled rice priced at P45 per kilo.

The DA price monitoring also showed the retail prices of local well-milled rice ranging between P45 and P53 per kilo as there was no available imported well-milled rice. For

local premium rice, retail prices ranged between P50 and P58 per kilo as compared to the imported premium rice of P52 to P60 per kilo.

Economic managers earlier said the retail price of imported rice will go down by as much as P7 per kilo with the implementation of Executive Order 62, which allows a 15-percent tariff on imported rice from the previous 35 percent.

But farmers' groups have maintained that EO 62, which was implemented on July 7, did not result in lower retail price of imported grains as it only benefited the importers and traders.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. moved the expected full impact of EO 62 to January 2025 from October 2024, saying demand for food usually spikes in December.

As of Oct. 17, at least 3.6 million metric tons of imported rice have arrived in the country, with the bulk, or 2.8 million MT, coming from Vietnam.

Other rice imports were sourced from Thailand (448,963 MT), Pakistan (159,159 MT), Myanmar (107,198 MT), India (22,039 MT), China (5,720 MT), Japan (2,386 MT), Cambodia (1,620 MT), Italy (14 MT) and Spain (1.92 MT).

The local rice harvest for the wet season started in September and peaked this month.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/10/28/2395825/local-rice-still-cheaper-imported-da>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Philippines dairy output to swell by 10 percent this year – USDA

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

October 28, 2024 | 12:00am



Tons of imported rice are hauled at a port in Manila.

MANILA, Philippines — The country’s dairy output this year could grow by 10 percent on an annual basis to 32,000 metric tons (MT) on the back of a growing dairy herd, according to an international agency.

The US Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA-FAS) in Manila projected that domestic dairy output would reach 32,000 MT, about 3,140 MT higher than last year’s 28,860 MT. The agency attributed it to the growing number of dairy animals in the country which has been estimated at about 34,000 heads.

“The number of dairy goats is growing due to increasing imports, with the NDA (National Dairy Authority) focusing on providing goats for the livelihood of small farmers,” it said in a report published recently.

“The dairy cattle herd has recovered from a decline in 2023 due to refreshing of old animals and slaughter of cows for meat,” it added.

Furthermore, local dairy output is expected to continue increasing next year, reaching 33,000 MT as the government becomes more aggressive in its dairy development projects, according to the USDA-FAS Manila.

“Production growth has been slow in previous years because of the inability to increase the dairy herd, mostly due to insufficient funding and little investment from the private sector,” it said.

Despite production improvements, the country only supplies 20 percent of its annual ready-to-drink milk requirement, with the rest being imported. This means that one glass out of five glasses of liquid milk consumed in the country comes from local production, the report said.

The report noted that the country’s average milk production remains subpar with other countries such as the US where cows produce 30 liters a day. In the Philippines, dairy cows have an average milk output of 10 liters a day, 4.5 liters a day for buffalo and 1.5 liters a day for goats, according to the report.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/10/28/2395681/philippines-dairy-output-swell-10-percent-year-usda>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Singapore, Malaysia, other nations assist in Kristine relief operations

[Pia Lee-Brago](#) - The Philippine Star

October 28, 2024 | 12:00am



President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. led the dispatching of relief goods to isolated barangays flooded by severe tropical storm Kristine in Barangay Causip, Bula, Camarines Sur, on October 26, 2024.

Noel Pabalate / The Philippine STAR

MANILA, Philippines — Military aircraft from Singapore and Malaysia have arrived in the country to assist in relief operations in areas devastated by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine.

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) said a Republic of Singapore Air Force C-130 cargo plane and a Eurocopter EC725 transport helicopter of the Royal Malaysian Air Force arrived at Villamor Air Base in Pasay on Saturday.

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. welcomed the arrival of the aircraft with Singaporean Ambassador Constance See, Malaysian Ambassador Dato' Abdul Malik Melvin Castelino and PAF Commanding General Lt. Gen. Stephen Parreño.

PAF spokesperson Col. Ma. Consuelo Castillo said the aircraft will play a crucial role in bolstering the PAF's ongoing humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations in areas affected by Kristine.

Office of Civil Defense Administrator Ariel Nepomuceno said Saturday that Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia have signified their intention to send their air assets to the country, which can help in transporting relief goods to communities affected by the onslaught of Kristine.

Meanwhile, Australia sent its "Bluey" emergency food truck to Camarines Sur. The truck can serve up to 800 hot meals per day to people displaced by the storm.

"This response is part of Australia's long-standing partnership with @philredcross to deliver immediate humanitarian assistance," Australian Ambassador HK Yu wrote on Twitter.

NFA rice arrives in Naga

Four trucks from the National Food Authority (NFA) and Food Terminal Inc. carrying rice arrived yesterday in storm-devastated Naga as part of the government's efforts to help communities affected by Kristine.

Last Friday, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the Philippines has adequate rice supply despite the effects of Kristine. The Department of Agriculture (DA) was able to harvest about 60 to 70 percent of the rice crops more than a week before the storm hit the country, he added.

"Then we have Kadiwa trucks also in (Camarines Sur), we also have NFA rice ordered by the LGUs (local government units) being deployed as we speak. And to prepare for what is coming, we also instructed NFA to send additional rice above and beyond what was requested," Laurel said during a briefing on the impact of Kristine at Malacañang.

The agriculture sector has sustained P1.4 billion worth of damage because of Kristine, data from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council showed. Some 5.7 million people or 1.4 million families have been affected by the storm.

In the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), an initial 356 rice and vegetable farmers in two provinces affected by Kristine will receive aid from the DA.

Crisante Rosario of the DA-CAR Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said rice farmers in Kalinga and vegetable farmers in Apayao have been affected by the tropical storm, so far affecting 154 hectares of rice and vegetables areas.

An initial P17.5 million worth of damage was so far recorded, Rosario said, adding that they “are currently gathering data and information from (our) provincial coordinating offices on the effect of the typhoon.”

Shelter cash aid available

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) yesterday said shelter cash assistance for victims of Kristine in the Bicol region is ready for distribution.

DHSUD Secretary Jose Rizalino Acuzar said the assistance would come from the agency’s Integrated Disaster Shelter Assistance Program (IDSAP) and would be extended immediately to families whose houses were damaged.

Under the program, the DHSUD will provide cash assistance of P30,000 for victims whose houses were destroyed, and P10,000 for those with damaged residences.

DHSUD Undersecretary for disaster response Randy Escolango said that aside from the P15 million allocated initially for Region 5, particularly for Camarines Sur and Albay, assistance to other affected areas is also being processed by DHSUD.

Apart from the IDSAP, DHSUD’s key shelter agencies will implement a one-month moratorium on monthly amortization payments for typhoon victims who have outstanding housing loans.

Meanwhile, the Department of Education (DepEd) said as of yesterday, the storm’s damage to public schools nationwide has risen to over P3 billion. A situation report showed that about 861 schools sustained damage from flooding and landslides.

The number represents 2,700 destroyed classrooms needing reconstruction worth P2.7 billion, and 1,361 partially damaged classrooms that require major repairs worth P680 million.

Over 38,000 schools are still being used as evacuation centers.

Clearing operations in landslide-hit Albay

The Sorsogon provincial government has sent heavy equipment to help in clearing operations in Albay after a landslide occurred in the region.

According to the Sorsogon Public Information Office (PIO), the Provincial Engineers Office has sent heavy equipment to Barangay Burabod, Libon, Albay.

Senate President Francis Escudero has asked Sorsogon Gov. Edwin Hamor to aid neighboring provinces affected by Kristine.

Sorsogon's PIO said the heavy equipment included 10 dump trucks, two backhoes, a loader and grader, water tankers, ambulances and mobile kitchens.

It added that Task Force Sorsogon started to provide relief goods and help residents stranded in their respective homes. The task force will stay in Albay until the clearing operation is finished.

Heavy traffic remains along Maharlika Highway in Barangay Mabolo, Naga City, as Milaor and San Fernando, Camarines Sur remain flooded.

Batangas gov blames DENR for flooding

In Batangas, Gov. Hermilando Mandanas has publicly criticized the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for failing to dredge the Pansipit River, a situation he says significantly contributed to the severe flooding across the province.

In a press conference held at the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC) office, Mandanas expressed his frustration with the lengthy processes required to conduct river dredging.

“There are so many requirements, permits and payments to the DENR just to dredge the Pansipit River,” the governor said in Filipino.

He emphasized that the flood damage could have been mitigated if the river had been cleared before the storm.

“Since (Taal) volcano erupted, Pansipit has been filled with earth. That's why I'm calling on the DENR to start dredging the river to prevent further severe flooding,” Mandanas added.

Ako Bicol, Speaker lead Bicol relief operations

The Ako Bicol party-list, in partnership with Speaker Martin Romualdez, has launched an extensive relief and rescue operation across Bicol in the aftermath of Kristine.

Romualdez answered Ako Bicol's call for aid by dispatching 20 rubber boats, outboard motors, and essential rescue equipment, which were delivered by a C130 military plane.

The shipment included life vests, buoys, traction ropes and rope throwing bags to strengthen local rescue efforts.

“These tools were vital as we faced severe flooding that displaced thousands of our kababayans,” said Ako Bicol Rep. Zaldy Co. “We are deeply grateful for Speaker Romualdez’s prompt action.”

The rescue equipment was distributed to key agencies, including the Camarines Sur local government, the 9th Infantry Division, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the PNP Maritime Group.

Ako Bicol also distributed over 18,000 food packs, with 12,218 provided in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and 5,793 sourced from Ako Bicol’s resources. The distribution reached 19 barangays, mainly in Albay, Camarines Sur and Sorsogon.

Additionally, 500 blankets and 2,000 modular evacuation tents were delivered to support displaced residents. Hot meals with clean water were also served to over 800 individuals, including 20 families in Malilipot, 500 individuals at Tabaco Port, and 642 people across various areas in Sorsogon.

As the storm exited the country, Ako Bicol mobilized heavy equipment, including bulldozers, backhoes and dump trucks, to clear blocked routes like in Sagnay-Tiwi road, restoring vital access for relief operations.

Willie, Manila Teachers donate to Angat Buhay

Senatorial candidate and television game show host Willie Revillame joined forces with the Manila Teachers party-list in donating P3 million to typhoon relief efforts through the Angat Buhay Foundation of former vice president Leni Robredo.

Revillame and Manila Teachers personally went before Angat Buhay Foundation chairperson Robredo and handed her a check worth P3 million.

“It was at the height of the storm in Bicol when I and the Manila Teachers party-list decided to help our kababayans in Bicolandia,” Revillame said. “My mother is from Bicol, so the Bicolanos are close to my heart.”

Robredo expressed her gratitude to Revillame and the Manila Teachers party-list for their donation. “From the bottom of our hearts, we thank all those who answered our call for help. Maraming, maraming salamat po,” she said.

PNP chief commends officers

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Rommel Francisco Marbil commended the bravery and dedication of police officers deployed during Severe Tropical Storm Kristine.

In a statement yesterday, Marbil highlighted police officers who showed acts of courage amid dangerous conditions.

“From wading through dangerous floodwaters to evacuate children to safety, to rescuing entire families trapped in their homes, their selflessness and bravery are beyond measure,” he said.

As Kristine battered parts of the country, the PNP said that they swiftly responded, leading rescue and relief efforts in the hardest-hit regions. More than 4,000 officers were dispatched to affected areas, providing essential support to communities in need.

In regions such as Bicol and Eastern Visayas, which were severely impacted by the storm, disaster response units were deployed alongside personnel and mobility assets to carry out large-scale rescue missions.

The PNP also worked closely with local authorities in Bacoor, Cavite, where teams rescued residents trapped by rising floodwaters.

Marbil also emphasized the ongoing efforts in Batangas, where landslides buried homes and endangered residents.

They said the PNP’s efforts have so far led to the safe evacuation of more than 300,000 individuals to temporary shelters.

Coast guard gets Starlink boost

Meanwhile, the PCG recently received 100 units of Starlink communication devices that would boost the maritime agency’s communications and response operations capability during times of disaster.

The PCG said in a statement that its Commandant, Admiral Ronnie Gil Gavan received the Starlink communication devices from Space Exploration Technologies Corp. or SpaceX, through technology solutions company DFNN’s chief operating officer, Donald Limcaco.

Admiral Gavan expressed his thanks to DFNN's continuous support to the Coast Guard, and said that these devices would be useful in their disaster response operations and other initiatives.

The PCG was given a three-month subscription for the use of the satellite-based internet service Starlink devices. — **Alexis Romero, Artemio Dumlao, Neil Jayson Servallos, Bella Cariaso, Evelyn Macairan, Mark Ernest Villeza, Cecille Suerte Felipe, Rainier Allan Ronda, Arnell Ozaeta**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/10/28/2395819/singapore-malaysia-other-nations-assist-kristine-relief-operations>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

158 areas under state of calamity

[Pia Lee-Brago](#) - The Philippine Star

October 28, 2024 | 12:00am



Men salvage their belongings damaged by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine in Barangay Nonong Casto in Lemery, Batangas yesterday. Handout inset photo shows Calabarzon police helping retrieve bodies in Talisay town on Saturday.

Jesse Bustos

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 158 areas across the country have declared a state of calamity in the aftermath of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said yesterday.

The Bicol region has the highest number of areas placed under a state of calamity with 78, followed by Calabarzon with 63 and Eastern Visayas with 13.

The provinces of Albay, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte and Catanduanes as well as Bulacan in Sorsogon are currently under a state of calamity.

Amid this development, the death toll due to Kristine's onslaught has risen to 90, according to the NDRRMC.

NDRRMC spokesman Edgar Posadas said the number of reported deaths is still up for validation to determine if the causes are related to the storm.

“They were reported. These are running real-time count,” Posadas said in an interview over Teleradyo Serbisyo.

In an earlier interview over radio station dzBB, Office of Civil Defense administrator Ariel Nepomuceno said the death toll was at 85 while 41 were missing.

In Calabarzon, 48 deaths have been recorded while 28 have been reported in Bicol.

The causes of death of the 85 individuals will still be validated if these were due to the effects of the storm.

Many of the casualties were caused by landslides and flooding, according to Nepomuceno.

In its report, the NDRRMC said a total of 1,415,438 families, accounting for 5,784,298 individuals, have been impacted by Kristine nationwide.

The 2.5 million people affected are from Bicol alone; 936,951 are from Central Luzon and 685,049 from Eastern Visayas.

In the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, more than 488,000 people are also affected.

The report said 91,189 families are in 7,484 evacuation centers, all of whom had already received assistance, while 48,250 families are taking shelter in other places and had received external support.

Agriculture damage swells to P3.11 billion

In the agriculture sector, Kristine’s damage has swelled to P3.11 billion amid the extent of the devastation of the cyclone, according to latest data from the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Based on the latest report from the DA’s Operations Center as of 9 a.m. yesterday, the damage and losses in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Bicol, Ilocos region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Soccsksargen and Caraga have been reported in rice, corn, cassava, high value crops, livestock and poultry, fisheries and agricultural infrastructure.

The DA said at least 74,554 farmers and 72,323 hectares of agricultural lands have been affected, resulting in the volume of production loss of 160,107 metric tons (MT).

It added that at least 93 percent, or P2.87-billion damage, was reported in rice production covering 69,976 hectares and production loss of 152,440 MT.

The agency maintained that the volume of production loss was only 0.75 percent of the total annual production target volume for rice at 20.19 million MT.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has said that Kristine would hurt the country's total palay production.

“Unfortunately, the effects of La Niña, particularly Kristine, will hurt our production as we are already at harvest period this wet season. It is sad news that areas ready for harvest have been reportedly flooded,” Tiu Laurel said.

The damage to high value crops totaled P121.08 million covering 1,519 hectares and production loss of 6,014 MT.

Meanwhile, the damage to farm structures and irrigation facilities have been pegged at P41.66 million and P26 million, respectively.

The damage to corn production reached P22.27 million covering 783 hectares and production loss of 1,461 MT.

The volume of production loss was only 0.02 percent of the total annual production target volume for corn at 8.86 million MT.

Losses to fisheries have reached P11.20 million with volume loss of 66 MT affecting 98 fisherfolk.

The damage to cassava production reached P6.55 million covering 52 hectares and production loss of 126 MT and livestock and poultry, P3.73 million affecting 2,862 heads.

At least P531.72 million worth of agricultural inputs will be distributed to the affected farmers, according to the DA.

It said at least P1 billion in the Quick Response Fund would be tapped for the rehabilitation and recovery of affected areas.

Aside from these, at least P500 million has been allocated for the Survival and Recovery Loan Program of the Agricultural Credit Policy Council, where affected farmers can avail themselves up to P25,000 loanable amount, payable in three years at zero interest.

The DA said insured farmers would receive indemnification from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp.

18 national roads affected

Meanwhile, 18 national roads had substantial sections that remained closed to traffic as of yesterday morning, according to the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The national roads are scattered all over almost all regions in Luzon except in Ilocos, but includes CAR and Central Visayas.

The DPWH said major thoroughfares have been rendered impassable due to rock collapse, high water elevation, flooding, collapsed road, landslide, fallen electric posts, silted pavement, collapsed pavement, rockslide and road slip.

Three national bridges have become also unpassable: one in Cagayan Valley; one in Calabarzon, and one in Bicol due to flooding and collapsed bridge.

Also, 13 national road sections have limited access due to road slip, flash flood, scoured reinforced concrete pipe culvert and washed-out surfacing materials, and flooding.

All national roads and bridges in other affected regions had already become passable to all types of vehicles as of yesterday morning. — **Bella Cariaso, Rainier Allan Ronda**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/10/28/2395838/158-areas-under-state-calamity>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Dairy imports expected to grow next year

October 28, 2024 | 12:03 am



REUTERS

PHILIPPINE DAIRY imports are expected to increase in 2025 due to strong domestic demand, according to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In a report, the USDA said overall dairy imports are forecast to rise to 3.1 million metric tons (MMT) in liquid milk equivalent for 2025 from 3.05 MMT this year, mainly due to increased shipments of skim milk powder.

The Philippines typically imports dairy products such as ready-to-drink milk, cheese, skim milk powder, and whole milk powder.

The Philippines typically imports 99% of its dairy requirements as domestic production cannot meet demand.

The USDA said that the Philippines sources its requirements mainly from the US and New Zealand, followed by Indonesia, Australia, and Denmark.

“Dairy products continue to be the third largest US agricultural export to the Philippines after soybean meal and wheat, in value terms,” it added.

The USDA said that imports of skim milk powder are expected to grow 3% to 160,000 MT.

“An expected decline in import price will encourage manufacturers to produce more packaged dairy products to serve increasing demand,” it added.

The US and New Zealand are among the top suppliers of skim milk powder to the Philippines.

Imports of ready-to-drink milk and whole milk powder are forecast to remain flat in 2025. On the other hand, cheese imports are expected to decline next year due to higher import prices.

Meanwhile, dairy production is projected at 33,000 MT in 2025, due to an increase in the dairy herd as the government pursues dairy industry development projects.

The National Dairy Authority (NDA) said it is planning to import dairy cattle for its stock farms to support its plans to expand domestic production.

The NDA said that the new stock farms will eventually help increase the domestic dairy herd to about 80,000 head.

The NDA aims to increase dairy production to 80 million liters per year by 2028, equivalent to about 5% of milk demand.

“Production growth has been slow in previous years because of the inability to increase the dairy herd, mostly due to insufficient funding and little investment from the private sector,” the USDA said.

The USDA added that consumption is expected to hit three MMT by 2025, driven by increased population.
— **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/agribusiness/2024/10/28/630818/dairy-imports-expected-to-grow-next-year/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

China's five-year plan seeks to boost food output

October 28, 2024 | 12:02 am



REUTERS

BEIJING — China on Friday launched a five-year action plan to accelerate the digital transformation of the entire agriculture industry chain as part of measures to raise domestic food production.

The 2024-2028 smart agriculture action plan will aim to establish a digital planting technology scheme as well as a national agricultural and rural big data platform by 2028, the agriculture ministry said in a statement.

The urgency to adopt big data, GPS navigation systems and artificial intelligence in farming comes as the world's largest grains producer stepped up investments in farm machinery and seed technology in its quest for food security.

China's grain output is set to exceed a record 700 million metric tons this year, Zhang Xingwang, the vice-minister for agriculture and rural affairs told reporters in a news conference on Friday.

But he said efforts to ensure stable supply "cannot be relaxed" as the country remains highly reliant on imports to feed a population of 1.4 billion.

China imports over 100 million metric tons of soybeans and grains a year, particularly from United States and Brazil.

The digital transformation, which covers farms, animal husbandry and fisheries, is expected to help reduce costs, increase production and increase efficiency.

To accelerate yield increase, the ministry will accelerate the digital upgrade of agricultural machinery and equipment at farms.

The ministry added that it will continue to explore the future of smart agriculture by supporting research institutions and strengthening the research and development of agricultural technologies. — **Reuters**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/agribusiness/2024/10/28/630817/chinas-five-year-plan-seeks-to-boost-food-output/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Agriculture ‘most problematic’ area in India-EU free trade talks, German economy minister says

October 28, 2024 | 12:01 am



STOCK PHOTO | Image by [Jeevan Singla](#) from [Pixabay](#)

NEW DELHI — Agriculture is the “most problematic” area in talks to secure a free trade deal between India and the European Union (EU), German Economy Minister Robert Habeck said on Thursday, suggesting that it would be better to focus on the industrial sector first.

Mr. Habeck is in India for a regional business conference and is part of a high-level delegation that aims to build better trade and business relations between two of the world’s biggest economies.

Agriculture is a problematic area as there is a huge variation in the number of people working in the farm sector in India and Germany, he told reporters, adding that it was 2% of the population in Germany compared to about 60% in India.

“So you can’t compare the two agricultural systems. If you were to open the markets completely... the disruption to the Indian market will be tremendous,” Mr. Habeck said.

It would be faster, smoother, and practical to focus on the industrial sector instead, he said.

Although this is “not in line” with what the EU normally does, a “shortcut” may be the way forward as clubbing agriculture, services, and industry was making it difficult, Mr. Habeck added.

India and the EU agreed in 2022 to relaunch talks on a free trade agreement, initially aiming to complete talks by the end of 2023, but have failed to make significant progress on a deal, with India blaming “irrational” standards set by the EU as one of the reasons.

The visit of the delegation comes at a delicate time for Germany, whose export-oriented economy faces a second year of contraction and worries over a trade dispute between the EU and China that could rebound on German companies.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who is traveling with most of his cabinet, will hold talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday before presiding over the seventh round of Indian-German government consultations.

During his last visit to India in Feb. 2023, Mr. Scholz said that he and Mr. Modi were committed to sealing a free trade deal between India and the EU. — **Reuters**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/agribusiness/2024/10/28/630816/agriculture-most-problematic-area-in-india-eu-free-trade-talks-german-economy-minister-says/>

MANILA STANDARD

DA calls on farmers to adopt safety measures

By Othel V. Campos

October 28, 2024, 12:20 am

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is advising farmers and fisherfolk to take precautionary measures as Tropical Storm Kong-Rey, locally named “Leon,” enters the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

Farmers are advised to harvest mature crops and mobilize post-harvest equipment and facilities.

The DA had earlier reported that damage to agriculture has reached P1.69 billion, with rice crops accounting for 95.15 percent of the loss.

The DA told farmers to secure seed reserves, planting materials, and other farm inputs in safe and proper storage areas.

In addition, farmers were expected to relocate farm machinery, equipment, and other farm tools to higher ground.

Farmers were told to secure sufficient feed and water for relocated animals and clear drainage in irrigation and rice paddies to prevent flooding and promote fast water drainage.

Fisherfolk were advised to perform early harvest and mobilize post-harvest equipment and facilities.

The DA also advised fishermen to secure fishing vessels in higher ground and dismiss sea travel as potentially rough conditions prevail over affected seaboard.

The DA urges all concerned to monitor weather updates and follow advisories from local government units and weather agencies. Stay safe and vigilant.

<https://manilastandard.net/news/314516111/da-calls-on-farmers-to-adopt-safety-measures.html>

MANILA STANDARD

DepEd calling for the public's support of farm schools



SUSTAINABLE FARMING. Students gather around an instructor during an outdoor gardening lesson to learn about sustainable farming practices and plant care in a rural greenhouse setup. Jayobo Farm School FB Page.

By [Manila Standard](#)

October 27, 2024, 11:20 pm

The Department of Education (DepEd) in Western Visayas is calling on the public and parents to support the region's farm schools, which have transformed education in 31 local schools by integrating agriculture into student lessons.

Over the past four years, farm schools in Western Visayas have flourished, providing more than 8,000 junior high school learners with hands-on skills in agriculture.

These schools go beyond traditional academics, teaching students effective farming methods and entrepreneurial skills to prepare them for future livelihoods. By embedding agriculture into their curriculum, these schools aim to equip students with the tools needed to tackle hunger and poverty.

Covering a wide range of agricultural topics—from traditional farming to advanced techniques in fisheries, livestock, and business skills—farm schools offer diverse agricultural education across Western Visayas. Dr. Elena Gonzaga, chief of DepEd’s Curriculum and Learning Management Division in the region, emphasized that these schools provide hands-on learning to prepare students for careers in agriculture and food production.

The program’s success has drawn national attention, according to DepEd Western Visayas Director Dr. Ramir Uytico. To continue building on this momentum, DepEd Western Visayas has strengthened its farm schools, which Uytico believes could help reduce hunger and poverty by fostering a new generation of skilled farmers.

To expand the farm school initiative, DepEd allocated P106 million in funding and plans to seek additional support from the Central Office. Among the program’s highlights is the Jayobo Farm School in Lambunao, which incorporates native pig farming and is developing a community marketplace where students can sell their produce, creating an income-generating program for learners.

“If we want to eradicate poverty and hunger, support our farm schools,” Uytico said.

The Iloilo City Farm School, supported by the Iloilo City Government, is also enhancing its program by incorporating hydroponic farming and mushroom cultivation to promote sustainable urban agriculture. Additionally, farm schools hope to establish commercial partnerships with local hotels and restaurants to provide an outlet for students’ products, making the program even more sustainable and impactful.

By integrating agricultural skills and entrepreneurship into education, DepEd Western Visayas believes it is cultivating a path toward **food security and economic resilience in the region.**

<https://manilastandard.net/news/national/314516107/dep-ed-calling-for-the-publics-support-of-farm-schools.html>

DA: Tropical storm damage to agri sector hits ₱3.11B

Ada Pelonia
October 28, 2024



Tropical storm Kristine (international code name Trami) destroyed agricultural products worth P3.11 billion, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said over the weekend. In its latest bulletin, the DA said the volume of production losses in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol Region, Western and Eastern Visayas, Soccksargen, and Caraga Region reached 160,107 metric tons (MT).

The rice sector suffered the brunt of Kristine as farmers lost 152,440 MT of grains. The storm also damaged 6,014 MT of high-value crops and 1,461 MT of corn.

According to the DA, standing rice and corn crops damaged by the storm were in the reproductive and maturity stages.

The agency said losses in rice were equivalent to P2.87 billion; high-value crops, P121.08 million; corn, P22.27 million; and cassava, P6.55 million.

The livestock and poultry sector also lost 2,862 heads, which include swine, chicken, cattle, carabao, goat, sheep, and ducks. The value of damage reached P3.73 million, according to the DA.

It noted that the damage sustained by the fisheries sector was valued at P11.20 million.

The storm's damage to agricultural infrastructure and irrigation facilities amounted to more than P67 million, the agency said.

Kristine affected 74,554 farmers tilling 72,329 hectares (ha) of agricultural areas. Of this, the DA said 45,530 hectares had a chance of recovery.

To help producers recover, the DA said it has put in place interventions, such as the distribution of P541.02-million worth of agricultural inputs, such as rice, corn, and vegetable seeds as well as drugs and biologics for the livestock and poultry sector.

Bags of rice stocks from the National Food Authority were distributed as relief by local government units, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and other relief agencies to the affected families.

The DA said available funds from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC) will be disbursed to indemnify affected farmers.

The agency encouraged farmers to tap the P500-million Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Program from the Agricultural Credit Policy Council, which will allow them to take out a loan of up to P25,000 which is payable in three years at zero interest.

“As the assessments continue, further damage and losses are expected in the affected regions,” the DA said.

“Hence, the DA through its Regional Field Offices is continuously working with concerned Local Government Units, and other DRRM-related offices to address the impact of ‘Kristine,’ and to utilize available resources for assistance to the affected farmers,” it added.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/28/da-tropical-storm-damage-to-agri-sector-hits-%e2%82%b13-11b/>

Researchers explain how typhoons lose strength

Bless Aubrey Ogerio
October 28, 2024

Contrary to popular belief, mountain ranges like the Sierra Madre and the Cordillera do not significantly weaken typhoons.

Researchers from the University of the Philippines Diliman explained that a typhoon loses strength primarily when it moves away from its main energy source, which is the ocean. Once separated from the ocean's moisture and heat, its intensity naturally declines.

The study drew public attention after one of the researchers, Bernard Alan Racoma, shared the findings in a Facebook post last October 26, following Typhoon Kristine's (international name: Tami) onslaught.

“Kinailangan pa naming doblehin ang tangkad ng Cordillera Mountain Range (na mas matangkad sa Sierra Madre Mountain Range) bago pa kami nakakita ng significant weakening effect. In short, mahina ang epekto ng mga bundok natin ngayon sa lakas ng bagyo,” he commented on his post.

The team analyzed tropical cyclone behavior over different simulated topographies—Flat (no mountains), Reduced (mountain height lowered), and Enhanced (mountain height increased)—assessing how storms' intensity, movement, and direction shifted under each condition.

To better understand mountains' influence on typhoons, researchers used the Weather Research and Forecasting model to simulate typhoon scenarios with and without Luzon's rugged topography.

Results showed that while the Sierra Madre partially shields areas like Catanduanes and eastern Bicol from direct wind impact, it could also increase rainfall on both its eastern and western slopes.

This interaction, known as the orographic effect, tends to concentrate rainfall, which could worsen flooding and landslides in vulnerable areas.

The study further showcased that although the Cordillera range is somewhat more effective than the Sierra Madre at reducing wind intensity, especially for westward-moving typhoons, rainfall risks around its slopes remain high.

Water-related damage, often more severe than wind impacts during typhoons, also remains a critical concern. Even if mountains can reduce wind speed slightly, they have limited influence on overall storm behavior.

Notably, the Sierra Madre reduces wind exposure by up to 20 percent in the Cagayan Valley but increases rainfall along western slopes by 23 percent to 48 percent and, in Metro Manila, by up to 55 percent.

For the Cordillera, it reduces wind field strength in Northern and Central Luzon, but it also channels rainfall around its slopes.

Ultimately, researchers urged that relying on mountains alone as mere barriers against typhoons might foster a false sense of security.

“In my opinion, it’s time to shift the conversation from ‘protecting the mountains because they weaken typhoons’ to ‘protecting what these mountains house and represent’: flora, fauna, culture and communities. These are the ones that can ultimately help protect us from different (tropical cyclone)-related hazards,” Racoma added.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/28/researchers-explain-how-typhoons-lose-strength/>

‘PHL milk output will breach 30,000-MT mark’

Ada Pelonia
October 28, 2024

The Philippines will end 2024 with a higher milk production due to the expansion of its dairy herd, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) said in its latest report.

“Production will recover at the level of 32,000 MT [metric tons] in 2024 attributed to the increasing number of dairy animals,” its report read.

The international agency also projected that the country’s milk output will continue to rise next year driven by the increasing herd size and the government’s dairy projects.

“Post forecasts production will rebound to 33,000 MT in 2025 boosted by an increase in the dairy herd and the active implementation of the government’s dairy development projects.”

Figures from the National Dairy Authority (NDA) showed that the country’s milk production in 2023 reached 28,860 MT. The projected output for 2024 is nearly 11 percent higher than last year’s level.

However, despite production improvements, the USDA said the Philippines will supply only 20 percent of its annual ready-to-drink (RTD) milk requirement. It will continue to bank on imports to fill the balance.

“Production growth has been slow in previous years because of the inability to increase the dairy herd, mostly due to insufficient funding and little investment from the private sector.”

Citing data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, the international agency said the country’s beginning inventory of dairy animals in 2024 stood at 34,000 heads.

“The number of dairy goats is growing due to increasing imports, with the NDA focusing on providing goats for the livelihood of small farmers,” it said.

“The dairy cattle herd has recovered from a decline in 2023 due to refreshing of old animals and slaughter of cows for meat.”

Meanwhile, the USDA said the country’s demand for RTD milk will grow in 2025 due to the expansion of the government’s Milk Feeding Program and strong food service growth, particularly in the coffee shop sector.

“Take-out and delivery services will push demand growth as consumers get used to online purchases,” it said. “Post revises consumption in 2024 from the USDA official estimate of 129,000 to 137,000 MT accounting for the increased in local supply and imported RTD milk.”

NDA Administrator Marcus Antonius Andaya recently said the agency would begin to import dairy cattle as soon as their 2025 budget gets approved.

These animals would be placed in NDA’s stock farms around the country and their offspring would then be distributed to farmers, he added.

Andaya said the agency is expecting the arrival of at least 600 imported dairy cattle from Australia in July 2025.

“Within the same year, the dairy cattle will be able to produce milk,” he said. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/21/nda-needs-bigger-budget-to-hike-milk-output/>)

According to Andaya, the NDA is targeting to raise annual domestic production to 80 million liters, equivalent to a 5 percent milk self-sufficiency rate, by 2028. He said the country’s milk self-sufficiency rate stood at 1.54 percent as of June.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/28/phl-milk-output-will-breach-30000-mt-mark/>

DA keen on food monitoring system of FMC Research

BusinessMirror
October 28, 2024

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture (DA), has partnered with regulatory technology firm FMC Research Solutions Inc. to improve the safety and quality of imported agricultural products.

BPI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with FMC Research to initiate a pilot test program that seeks to boost the agency's quarantine capabilities.

“The partnership between DA-BPI and FMC Research seeks to leverage innovative technology to enhance inspection processes and ensure compliance with food safety regulations to ensure the health of Filipino consumers,” the agency said in a statement.

BPI is tasked with enforcing food safety and phytosanitary regulations in the country, issuing clearances prior to importation to safeguard human health. The DA said the initiative is critical in preventing the entry of unsafe food products and controlling the spread of potential diseases linked to imports.

BPI Director Gerald Glenn Panganiban said the MOU with FMC Research aligns with Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr.'s efforts to digitize and streamline the functions of DA and its attached agencies.

“We're continuously looking at technological solutions to boost our inspection and quarantine capabilities, especially with the recent enactment of the Anti-Agricultural Sabotage Act that gave DA expanded powers to combat the smuggling of agricultural products,” he said.

“With this agreement, we will gain additional verification points for our agricultural product supply. 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.”

FMC Research specializes in providing a comprehensive lifecycle monitoring system for imported agricultural products. Under the MOU, FMC Research will conduct a pilot testing program at no additional cost to government.

“In this pilot test program, we shall demonstrate the capabilities and features of our secure solution,” said Melody C. Chua, co-founder of FMC Research Solutions Inc.

“We aim to secure an end-to-end system designed to counter the present issues on food safety and agricultural smuggling. 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 Bureau of Plant Industry.”

Chua said the adoption of FMC Research’s technology will lead to “greater transparency in import compliance,” ensuring improved food safety and quality for consumers.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/28/da-keen-on-food-monitoring-system-of-fmc-research/>

Global food security at risk as geopolitical tensions escalate

BusinessMirror Editorial
October 28, 2024

The recent surge in Russian attacks on Ukrainian port infrastructure has sent shockwaves through the global food supply chain, with reverberating impacts reaching far beyond the Black Sea region. The UK's warning of heightened risks posed by these attacks underscores a critical threat to global food shipments.

At the heart of this crisis lies Ukraine, a vital player in the global grain market. With Russia's assaults coinciding with the crucial harvest season, not only is Ukraine's agriculture-reliant economy under immediate threat, but the specter of food insecurity looms large over nations that depend on Ukrainian grain exports.

The implications of these targeted assaults extend beyond immediate disruptions to food shipments. The escalating geopolitical tensions have set off a domino effect, causing ripples across commodity prices and interest rates on a global scale. Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto's warning at the recent G-24 press briefing in Washington, DC serves as a clarion call to the economic risks posed by such geopolitical upheavals. (Read the BusinessMirror story, "Geopolitics fueling hikes in prices, rates," October 24, 2024).

Recto's call for a more agile and resolute response from international financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank is not just timely but imperative. The proposed reforms to the Bretton Woods international monetary system, aimed at bolstering support for developing countries in times of crisis and ensuring sustainable development goals by 2030, underscore the urgent need for coordinated action on a global scale.

The immense costs of conflicts and humanitarian crises around the world demand swift and decisive intervention to avert further destabilization. The G-24's emphasis on improved governance and institutional reforms within the international financial

architecture points towards a path forward that prioritizes inclusivity, sustainability, and resilience in the face of mounting challenges.

As we navigate the turbulent waters of geopolitical uncertainty and economic volatility, it is incumbent upon the international community to rally behind a shared vision of peace, stability, and prosperity for all.

The road to achieving a sustainable and inclusive future by 2030 is fraught with obstacles, but with concerted efforts, strategic priorities, and unwavering international cooperation, it remains within reach.

To alleviate the devastating effects of Russia's destructive actions, it is imperative to prioritize diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the conflict, protect critical infrastructure, and guarantee the unimpeded supply of vital food and commodities. Only then can we truly mitigate the harm caused by this crisis and pave the way for a more stable and food-secure future for all affected nations.

The optimism expressed by Secretary Recto regarding achieving a sustainable and inclusive future by 2030 is commendable, but it hinges critically on prioritizing international cooperation and addressing the root causes of this crisis. The ongoing attacks on Ukrainian ports are not merely a regional conflict; they are a global challenge demanding a concerted international response. Failure to address this situation decisively will have far-reaching and devastating consequences for global food security and economic stability.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/28/global-food-security-at-risk-as-geopolitical-tensions-escalate/>