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MANILA BULLETIN:

Testing rules out beef patties as the source of E. coli outbreak, McDonald's says

BY [ASSOCIATED PRESS](#)

Oct 28, 2024 08:19 AM



A McDonald's Quarter Pounder sandwich purchased, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024, in Chicago. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

LOS ANGELES (AP) — McDonald's announced Sunday that Quarter Pounders will again be on its menu at hundreds of its restaurants after testing ruled out beef patties as the source of the outbreak of E. coli poisoning tied to the popular burgers that killed one person and sickened at least 75 others across 13 states.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration continues to believe that slivered onions from a single supplier are the likely source of contamination, McDonald's said in a statement. It said it will resume selling the Quarter Pounder at affected restaurants — without slivered onions — in the coming week.

As of Friday, the outbreak had expanded to at least 75 people sick in 13 states, federal health officials said. A total of 22 people had been hospitalized, and two developed a dangerous kidney disease complication, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. One person has died in Colorado.

Early information analyzed by the FDA showed that uncooked sliced onions used on the burgers "are a likely source of contamination," the agency said. McDonald's has confirmed that Taylor Farms, a California-based produce company, was the supplier of the fresh onions used in the restaurants involved in the outbreak, and that they had come from a facility in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

McDonald's pulled the Quarter Pounder burger from menus in several states — mostly in the Midwest and Mountain states — when the outbreak was announced Tuesday. McDonald's said Friday that sliced onions from the Colorado Springs facility were distributed to approximately 900 of its restaurants, including some in transportation hubs like airports.

The company said it removed sliced onions sourced from that facility from its supply chain on Tuesday. McDonald's said it has decided to stop sourcing onions from Taylor Farms' Colorado Springs facility "indefinitely."

The 900 McDonald's restaurants that normally received sliced onions from Taylor Farms' Colorado Springs facility will resume sales of Quarter Pounders without sliced onions, McDonald's said.

Testing by the Colorado Department of Agriculture ruled out beef patties as the source of the outbreak, McDonald's said.

The department of agriculture received multiple lots of fresh and frozen beef patties collected from various Colorado McDonald's locations associated with the E. coli investigation. All samples were found to be negative for E. coli, the department said.

Taylor Farms said Friday that it had preemptively recalled yellow onions sent to its customers from its Colorado facility and continues to work with the CDC and the FDA as they investigate.

While it remains unclear if the recalled onions were the source of the outbreak, several other fast-food restaurants — including Taco Bell, Pizza Hut, KFC and Burger King — pulled onions from some menus in certain areas this week.

Colorado had the most illnesses reported as of Friday, with 26 cases. At least 13 people were sickened in Montana, 11 in Nebraska, 5 each in New Mexico and Utah, 4 each in Missouri and Wyoming, two in Michigan and one each in Iowa, Kansas, Oregon, Wisconsin and Washington, the CDC reported.

McDonald's said Friday it didn't pull the Quarter Pounder from any additional restaurants and noted that some cases in states outside the original region were tied to travel.

The CDC said some people who got sick reported traveling to other states before their symptoms started. At least three people said they ate at McDonald's during their travel. Illnesses were reported between Sept. 27 and Oct. 11.

The outbreak involves infections with E. coli 0157:H7, a type of bacteria that produces a dangerous toxin. It causes about 74,000 infections in the U.S. annually, leading to more than 2,000 hospitalizations and 61 deaths each year, according to CDC.

Symptoms of E. coli poisoning can occur quickly, within a day or two of eating contaminated food. They typically include fever, vomiting, diarrhea or bloody diarrhea and signs of dehydration — little or no peeing, increased thirst and dizziness. The infection is especially dangerous for children younger than 5, people who are elderly, pregnant or who have weakened immune systems.

https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/28/testing-rules-out-beef-patties-as-the-source-of-e-coli-outbreak-mc-donald-s-says#google_vignette

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

First border inspection rules out by December

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

October 29, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The government will hold a series of consultations with local and foreign stakeholders in the runup to the finalization of new import inspection rules by December for the anticipated implementation of the country’s first-border facility early next year.

In a response to queries at the World Trade Organization Committee on Agriculture (WTO-CoA), the Philippines said the regulatory guidelines for the cold examination facility for agriculture (CEFA) remains a work in progress.

The guidelines, which is expected to be finalized in two months’ time, shall be implemented once the CEFA becomes operational, with the first of its kind tabled to go online by the first quarter next year.

“The regulatory guidelines shall be subjected to a series of public consultations with both local and foreign industry stakeholders prior to its publication and shall be implemented 15 days thereafter,” the Philippines said, in reply to questions from the US and Australia.

During the September WTO-CoA meeting, US and Australia asked for updates about the planned first border facility of the Philippines which they implied might lead to import rules and regulations.

Manila also responded that the implementation of the new import rules and operationalization of the CEFA will serve as the first border sanitary and phytosanitary inspection and examination of the country pursuant to pertinent food safety and anti-smuggling laws. The country emphasized, however, that the finalization of the guidelines would remain under the authority of Philippines to ensure that the system “aligns” with national priorities and regulatory standards.

The Philippines, nonetheless, assured its trade-partners that the forthcoming guidelines covering the operations of CEFA will be notified to the WTO in line with existing multilateral agreements and commitments.

Earlier this year, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. disclosed that the country's first CEFA will be completed between January and February of next year.

The CEFA, which has been planned by the government since 2019, is touted to drastically improve the country's border control measures to prevent the entry of transboundary animal diseases and pests as well as curb agricultural smuggling.

The CEFA boasts state-of-the-art examination facility capable of scrutinizing all imported agricultural commodities, according to the Department of Agriculture.

The project has been marred by various challenges, from budgetary issues, absence of location to changes in leaderships and other bureaucratic issues, leading to its delays. Agriculture stakeholders, especially local producers, have been clamoring for the establishment of the first border facility to protect domestic production against diseases and smuggling.

The absence of the first border facility has been pointed out by certain quarters as the reason why diseases such as African swine fever entered the country.

The previously identified CEFA in Angat, Bulacan would focus on laboratory testing and condemnation of smuggled and rejected imported goods.

The agriculture chief said the government would complete four additional CEFAs by September next year to be located in Manila, Subic, Davao and General Santos City. The Angat facility could be operational ahead of the four CEFAs since it is just awaiting the equipment turnover from the government. The facility may start running between January and February 2025.

Last year, about P2.3 billion was lodged in the DA's budget for the construction of the first border facilities.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/10/29/2395936/first-border-inspection-rules-out-december>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Marcos signs joint circular vs hunger

[Alexis Romero](#) - The Philippine Star

October 29, 2024 | 12:00am



President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. receives the signed Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) – Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) from Social Welfare and Development Secretary Rex Gatchalian in a presentation ceremony at the Heroes Hall in Malacañang on October 28, 2024

STAR / Noel Pabalate

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos yesterday vowed to ensure that no community would be left behind in the campaign against poverty as the government and international organizations signed a joint memorandum circular that aims to strengthen measures to curb hunger in the Philippines.

The circular, designed to boost convergence efforts on hunger and poverty, was presented to the President by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and members of the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty or EPAHP during a ceremony at Malacañang.

Signed by government officials and development partners, including the United Nations World Food Program and the Food and Agriculture Organization, the circular sets the guidelines for the partnership of state agencies, local governments and private partners to harmonize existing programs, activities and services.

“Here at the presentation of the signed Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty or EPAHP joint memorandum circular, we gather to renew a promise: that no Filipino should go to bed hungry and that no community will be overlooked in our fight against poverty,” Marcos said.

“With the signing of this joint memorandum circular, we are bringing in a coalition of 34 partners – from national agencies to international organizations – each one committed to making zero hunger a reality in the Philippines,” he said.

According to Marcos, a 14-member steering committee led by the DSWD secretary would be created to ensure vital leadership, coordination, accountability and efficient enactment of the partnership’s measures.

As of May 2024, more than P200 million worth of sales and contracts between 122 community-based organizations and government feeding programs have been generated, he added.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/10/29/2395982/marcos-signs-joint-circular-vs-hunger>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Kristine ruins P500 million rice plants in Cagayan Valley

By: [Villamor Visaya Jr.](#) - Correspondent / [@VillVisayaJrINQ](#)

Inquirer Northern Luzon / 10:12 AM October 28, 2024



This aerial photo shows houses submerged in flood due to the heavy rains brought about by Tropical Storm Trami in Tuguegarao City, province of Cagayan on October 25, 2024. – Philippine rescue workers battled floodwaters on October 25 to reach residents still trapped on the roofs of their homes as Tropical Storm Trami moved out to sea after killing at least 40 people. (Photo by John Dimain / AFP)

TUGUEGARAO CITY — Gusty winds and heavy rains caused by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami) have caused an estimated P500 million in damage to rice plants across Cagayan Valley, according to Rose Mary Aquino, regional executive director of the Department of Agriculture.

Many rice fields may not recover as floodwaters persist in low-lying areas, even with rains now easing, Aquino explained in a statement on Oct. 26.

A total of 96,000 hectares of mature rice plants suffered extensive damage, while 40 percent were in the reproductive stage.

Losses totaled P521.33 million, with P506 million representing damage.

Isabela was the hardest hit, with about P498 million in crop damage, of which P382 million was only partially affected.

Quirino reported P3 million in crop losses, and Cagayan's final damage report is still pending validation.

Corn crop damage was minimal, impacting around 50,000 ha and resulting in P9 million losses in Cagayan and P1 million in Quirino.

Fisheries sustained about P3 million in losses, affecting 138 fisherfolk across the region.
INQ

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1998271/kristine-ruins-p500-million-rice-plants-in-cagayan-valley>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Agricultural damage due to Kristine climbs to P3.11B

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 09:01 AM October 28, 2024



FLOODED RICE FIELDS. A drone shot of rice fields submerged in flood following the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (Trami) in Camarines Sur on Wednesday (Oct. 23, 2024). The Department of Agriculture has recorded PHP80.80 million worth of damage to agriculture in four regions, affecting 2,864 farmers. | PHOTO: Official Facebook page of Naga City Government via PNA

The agriculture sector sustained P3.11 billion in damage following the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami), the Department of Agriculture (DA) said.

In its bulletin, the DA said the storm has affected the livelihood of 74,554 farmers in Cordillera Administrative, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon), Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan), Bicol, Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Soccsksargen and Caraga.

It estimated the volume of production losses at 160,107 metric tons (MT) covering 72,329 hectares (ha) of land.

Rice was the most affected subsector, sustaining P2.87 billion in losses, accounting for 92.51 percent of the total. Most of these were in reproductive and maturity stages.

Other affected commodities include high-value crops (P121.08 million), corn (P22.27 million), fisheries (P11.20 million), cassava (P6.55 million), and livestock and poultry (P3.73 million).

Kristine also damaged P26 million worth of irrigation facilities and P41.66 million worth of farm structures.

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

“Furthermore, monitoring prices and road networks is ongoing for any changes in prices and movement of agricultural commodities, respectively,” it added.

The DA is providing various interventions to affected fishers and farmers:

- **P541.02 million worth of agricultural inputs (rice, corn, and vegetable seeds, drugs, and biologics for livestock and poultry) from its regional field offices;**
- **Bags of rice stocks from the National Food Authority (NFA) for distribution as relief by local government units,**
- **Department of Social Welfare and Development and other relief agencies to families affected;**
- **Deployment of KADIWA stores to affected areas;**
- **P1 billion Quick Response Fund (QRF) for the rehabilitation and recovery of affected areas;**

- **P500 million for the Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Program of the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) with up to P25,000 loanable amount, payable in three years at zero interest; and Indemnification of insured affected farmers through the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC)**

<https://business.inquirer.net/487007/agricultural-damage-due-to-kristine-climbs-to-p3-11b>

BUSINESS WORLD:

IMF: Inflation risks still tilted to upside

October 29, 2024 | 12:34 am



A vendor at Paco Market is seen arranging meat products. — PHILIPPINE STAR/EDD GUMBAN

By **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**, *Reporter*

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund (IMF) said that upside risks to the outlook for Philippine headline inflation still persist.

“Risks to the inflation outlook have receded somewhat but remain tilted to the upside,” a representative of the IMF told *BusinessWorld* in an e-mail.

“Food prices remain vulnerable to adverse supply shocks, and rising geopolitical tensions and recurrent commodity price volatility also pose upside risks,” it added. Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. earlier said that the balance of risks to the inflation outlook for next year until 2026 has shifted to the upside. This is primarily due to expectations of higher electricity rates and minimum wages, he said.

Regional wage boards earlier this month approved a hike in the daily minimum wages of workers in Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon and Soccsksargen.

In July, the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board also approved a P35 minimum daily wage hike for workers in the National Capital Region.

Meanwhile, the IMF sees inflation settling at 3.3% this year and 3% in 2025.

The BSP expects inflation to average 3.1% this year and accelerate to 3.2% next year and 3.4% in 2026.

The IMF said that “decisive monetary tightening and non-monetary measures” have helped tame food inflation in the Philippines.

“Lower commodity prices have helped bring inflation down to within the BSP’s target band,” it said.

Headline inflation eased to 1.9% in September from 3.3% in August. The September print was also the slowest in over four years or since the 1.6% print in May 2020.

Food inflation slowed to 1.4% from 4.2% a month ago. This as rice inflation sharply slowed to 5.7% in September from 14.7% in August and 17.9% last year.

“The BSP reduced its policy rate by 25 basis points (bps) in both its August and October meetings this year, consistent with inflation and inflation expectations returning towards the target,” the IMF said.

Since it began its easing cycle in August, the Monetary Board has reduced policy rates by 50 bps, bringing the key rate to 6%.

Mr. Remolona earlier said the central bank could deliver another 25-bp rate cut at the last policy-setting review on Dec. 19.

CURRENT

ACCOUNT

Meanwhile, the IMF sees the country’s current account deficit further easing in the near term.

“The narrowing of the current account deficit in 2024 and 2025 will be supported by lower commodity prices, a gradual pickup in exports, supported by tourism returning towards pre-pandemic levels and demand for the business process outsourcing sector holding up,” the IMF said.

The IMF expects the Philippines’ current account deficit to settle at 2.2% of gross domestic product (GDP) this year and ease further to 1.8% in 2025 and 1.1% by 2029.

“Inward remittances are also expected to rise slightly,” it added.

In the January-August period, cash remittances expanded by 2.9% to \$22.22 billion from \$21.58 billion a year earlier. The BSP expects cash remittances to grow by 3% this year.

“Over the medium term, the current account is expected to be supported by a continued gradual rise in exports,” the IMF said.

“From a saving-investment perspective, the current account improvement is expected to be driven by a rise in private and public savings, with the latter underpinned by the government’s plans to implement a gradual medium-term fiscal consolidation,” it added.

In the first half of the year, the country’s current account deficit stood at \$7.1 billion, accounting for 3.2% of GDP.

The BSP expects the current account deficit to reach \$6.8 billion this year or 1.5% of GDP.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2024/10/29/631167/imf-inflation-risks-still-tilted-to-upside/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Corn, cassava targeted for yield enhancement

October 28, 2024 | 8:32 pm



REUTERS

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Monday that it is planning to increase the yields of corn and cassava crops to a level sufficient to meet at least 81% of domestic demand.

In a statement, Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said that by 2025, the DA aims to increase yields for yellow corn to 5.17 metric tons (MT) per hectare, for white corn 2.29 MT per hectare, and for cassava 11.73 MT per hectare.

The Philippines typically imports yellow corn, soybeans, and sorghum as raw materials in the manufacture of animal feed.

“Increasing the production of white corn will provide more options for available food staples, which is essential for achieving food security,” he added. The DA allocated about P5.32 billion for the National Corn Program next year which will fund planting materials, fertilizer, training, postharvest machinery, and small-scale irrigation projects.

“The program aims to boost production of quality corn, cassava, sorghum, and soybean for food, feed, and industrial use while empowering farmers and stakeholders with science-based interventions and support services,” the DA added.

To increase corn production, the department is pursuing the Corn Production Enhancement Project.

“The project provides seed and fertilizers to eligible farmers, and as of August 2024, we have distributed over 1,700 metric tons of corn seed and nearly 2.9 million cassava seeds, along with almost 6,000 metric tons of fertilizer,” Mr. Tiu Laurel said.

The Philippine Maize Federation, Inc.’s White Corn Industry Roadmap targets increased consumption of white corn and increased domestic supply. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/10/28/631181/corn-cassava-targeted-for-yield-enhancement/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Farm chamber supports more dairy cattle imports

October 28, 2024 | 8:31 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/ ANDY ZAPATA JR.

By **Adrian H. Halili**, *Reporter*

THE Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food, Inc. (PCAF) said it supports efforts to expand the dairy cattle herd via imports, and cited the need to build up the industry's capabilities in artificial insemination.

PCAF President Danilo V. Fausto said: "I hope we can import more dairy animals to increase our herd and also build up our artificial insemination (AI) program," he said by telephone.

Mr. Fausto added that the government should also increase the number of AI technicians and capacitate them through incentives.

The National Dairy Authority (NDA) has said that it plans to import dairy cattle for its stock farms. The acclimated offspring of these cattle will then be distributed to dairy farmers.

The Philippines imports the majority of its dairy requirements as domestic production cannot meet demand.

“With those measures, little by little, we hope to increase the share of our production versus the national demand,” Mr. Fausto said.

The NDA is targeting a sufficiency level of 2.66% by 2025. As of June, milk sufficiency was 1.54%.

In a report, the US Department of Agriculture said that Philippine dairy imports are expected to rise to 3.1 million metric tons (MT) in liquid milk equivalent in 2025, amid an expected increase in domestic dairy production to 30,000 MT.

Additionally, Mr. Fausto said that the passage of the Philippine Livestock Industry Development Act could further provide the catalyst to grow the dairy industry.

“(The taxes collected) from the imports of dairy products will be rechanneled directly to the development of the dairy industry,” Mr. Fausto said.

He added that the proposed law would centralize the management of the dairy industry.

“It could also increase the regulatory function of the (NDA),” he said.

The Senate has approved Senate Bill 2558 on third and final reading. It does not yet have a counterpart measure in the House of Representatives.

The NDA aims to increase dairy production to 80 million liters per year by 2028 to increase the share of domestic production to about 5% of dairy demand.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/10/28/631179/farm-chamber-supports-more-dairy-cattle-imports/>

REMATE:

P2B ayuda nakaabang sa Kristine-hit farmers, fishers

October 28, 2024 17:20



MANILA, Philippines – Magbibigay ang Department of Agriculture (DA) wng mahigit P2 bilyong halaga ng tulong sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda na apektado ng Severe Tropical Storm Kristine.

Sa pinakabagong bulletin ng DA-Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Operations Center hanggang nitong Linggo, Oktubre 27, nasa P541.02 milyong halaga ng agricultural inputs kabilang ang bigas, mais at vegetable seedlings, at mga gamut at biologics para sa mga livestock at poultry ang available na para ipamahagi at masiguro ang mabilis na recovery.

Handa na rin ang dagdag na P500 milyong loanable fund sa pamamagitan ng Survival and Recovery Loan (SURE) program ng Agricultural Credit Policy, na katumbas ng P25,000 loanable amount sa bawat magsasaka at maaaring bayaran sa loob ng tatlong taon nang walang interest.

Mayroong karagdagang P1 bilyong quick response fund para sa rehabilitasyon ng mga apektadong lugar.

Idineploy ang Kadiwa stores sa mga apektadong komunidad para magbenta ng mga murang produkto. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/p2b-ayuda-nakaabang-sa-kristine-hit-farmers-fishers/>

REMATE:

P500M halaga ng palay winasak ng bagyo sa Cagayan Valley

October 28, 2024 14:44



MANILA, Philippines – Nagdulot ng pinsala sa mga palayan sa Cagayan Valley ang Severe Tropical Storm Kristine.

Ayon kay Rose Mary Aquino, regional executive director ng Department of Agriculture, tinatayang P500 milyon ang halaga ng pinsala sa mga palay sa Cagayan Valley.

Hindi na maaaring mapakinabangan ang mga tanim na palay dahil maraming mga palayan ang nalubog sa baha.

Nasa kabuuang 96,000 ektarya ng mature rice plants ang labis na napinsala, habang 40 percent ang nasa reproductive stage.

Pinaka-napuruhan ang Isabela sa P498 milyong halaga ng crop damage.

Sumunod ang Quirino sa P3 million sa crop losses, habang pending pa ang final damage report ng Cagayan. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/p500m-halaga-ng-palay-winasak-ng-bagyo-sa-cagayan-valley/>

REMATE:

4 truck ng bigas nasa Naga na para sa relief ops

October 28, 2024 11:20



MANILA, Philippines- Dumating ang karagdagang apat na truck ng bigas sa Naga City, Camarines Sur para sa umiiral na relief efforts kasunod ng hagupit ni Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami), ayon kay Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. nitong Linggo.

Sa isang social media post, sinabi ni Marcos na nagmula ang mga truck ng bigas sa National Food Authority at Food Terminal Incorporated.

Tiniyak ng Pangulo sa publiko ang patuloy na suporta ng pamahalaan sa mga komunidad na apektado ni Kristine.

“Right now, it’s about making sure families in Camarines Sur have what they need to begin getting back on their feet,” ani Marcos.

“By air, land, or sea, we’ll keep the support coming. Sama-sama tayong babangon muli,” dagdag niya. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/4-truck-ng-bigas-nasa-naga-na-para-sa-relief-ops/>

REMATE:

‘Kristine’ nag-iwan ng P3B agri damage – DA

October 28, 2024 09:10



MANILA, Philippines- Umabot na sa P3.11 bilyon ang pinsalang natamo ng agrikultura dahi sa Severe Tropical Storm Kristine.

Iniulat ng DA na mayorya ng napinsala sa agrikultura ay bigas, umabot sa 152,440 metric tons (MT).

Ang iba pang apektadong agricultural commodities na naapektuhan ng bagyo ay mais na may 1,461 MT, cassava na may 126 MT, at high value crops na may 6,014 MT.

Nakapagtala rin ng 2,862 na pagkalugi sa hayop habang 98 naman ang apektadong palaisdaan.

Umabot naman sa P26 milyon ang pinsala sa mga irrigation facility.

Sa oras na tuluyang humupa at pumayapa ang kondisyon sa bansa, kaagad na magsasagawa ang DA ng field evaluation sa mga apektadong lugar.

Sinabi pa ng DA na P541.02 milyong halaga ng agricultural inputs ang available para sa distribusyon sa mga apektadong magsasaka.

Idinagdag pa ng departamento na tutulungan din nito ang mga magsasaka sa pamamagitan ng Quick Response Fund, Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Program, at Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/kristine-nag-iwan-ng-p3b-agri-damage-da/>

MANILA STANDARD:

PH turns to Italy for sustainable agriculture



Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu-Laurel Jr.

By DA News

October 28, 2024, 6:20 pm

The government is seeking the help of Italy to modernize Philippine agriculture and achieve sustainable food systems.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel met with Italian Minister of Agriculture Francesco Lollobrigida on World Food Day on Oct. 16 in Rome, Italy to discuss the cooperation between the two countries.

Tiu Laurel urged Italian businessmen to invest in Philippine agricultural modernization and contribute through smart technologies and irrigation systems in support of Manila's goals of agro-industrialization and climate-resilient farming.

The Philippine agriculture chief recounted a key trade mission in March 2023, where Italian companies specializing in water management and irrigation explored collaboration opportunities with Philippine institutions, including the Bureau of Soils and Water Management and the National Irrigation Administration.

The initiative laid the groundwork for deeper cooperation in modernizing the Philippines' agricultural infrastructure

“Italy’s agricultural machinery industry is world-class, and the Philippines can greatly benefit from this expertise as we modernize our agricultural sector,” Tiu Laurel said.

He also expressed optimism about expanding exports to include tuna, pineapples, frozen fish, carrageenan, and desiccated coconut. Philippine agricultural exports to Italy in 2023 totaled \$129 million, led by crude coconut oil.

The growing Filipino community in Italy, now estimated at 200,000, has increased demand for Philippine food products. Small and medium-sized enterprises have formed the Philippine Chamber of Commerce in Italy, promoting Philippine cuisine among Italians.

The bilateral meeting explored increasing agri-food trade and opportunities for skilled Filipino fisherfolk to work in Italy.

Lolobrigida extended Italy’s invitation for skilled fishermen to enhance the European country’s fishing industry while providing valuable opportunities for Filipino workers.

Discussions between the two countries also centered on potential collaboration with FederUnacoma, Italy’s National Federation of Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers, especially in adapting machinery to the Philippines’ unique agricultural landscape.

Tiu Laurel cited Italy’s support in agricultural trade and collaboration. “Our partnership in agriculture reflects the shared vision of our two nations. We look forward to finalizing our agreements and ensuring sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food systems,” he said.

<https://manilastandard.net/spotlight/environmental-and-sustainability/314516308/ph-turns-to-italy-for-sustainable-agriculture.html>

MANILA STANDARD:

Ocean's Innovation Challenge spans fishing nets to coconut husks



A coconut farmer in the Philippines. Fortuna Cools

By UNDP News

October 28, 2024, 6:05 pm

Part Two of Three Parts

“Fortuna joined OIC with zero, and wants to reach 250,000 sales in 5 years and 2 million in 10 years,” said Ahmed Elseoud, OIC project management mentor.

In Somalia, the extensive coastline has the potential to transform the economy through a sustainable Blue Economy, relying on fishing techniques passed down for generations. The equipment carries a high price tag—a new gill net costs from \$400 to \$600, but a lack of time and resources limits essential net repairs and maintenance.

OIC innovator the African Development Trust is releasing an untapped resource by training an initial 20 women from the coastal communities of southwest Somalia who were traditionally not involved in this work.

“This innovative approach challenges traditional gender roles, creating new opportunities for women in the maritime sector, enabling them to support their families and contributing to a stronger and more inclusive Somali economy” said Abdurazak Mohamed of the African Development Trust.

The pilot will be replicated to other fishing communities in Somalia to improve family livelihoods and reduce poverty, leading to a broader transformation of cultural perceptions around female contributions to the economy.

In Bangladesh, St. Martin Island is unique—it has the country’s only coral bed. The country has designated the site a Marine Protected Area, but MPAs are notoriously difficult to make effective, because each site has its own special context and requirements. **(To be continued)**

<https://manilastandard.net/spotlight/environmental-and-sustainability/314516294/oceans-innovation-challenge-spans-fishing-nets-to-coconut-husks-2.html>

THE MANILA TIMES:

World Bank support sought for agri sector

By Janine Alexis Miguel
October 29, 2024

AGRICULTURE Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. attended a World Bank Group (WBG) event last week and sought monetary support to modernize Philippine agribusiness, noting that the international financial group's \$9 billion annual investment goal by 2030 aligns with the Philippines' plans to upgrade its farming systems.

Tiu Laurel, one of the panelists at the event, "Agriculture and Food as an Engine of Sustainable Growth and Jobs," held October 23 in Washington, D.C., emphasized the crucial roles of government, the private sector, and financial institutions in boosting the farming sector.

"The World Bank and [other] financial institutions are a big part of the equation in helping transform Philippine agriculture," Tiu Laurel said.

The WBG on Sunday announced "a strategic pivot in its approach to agribusiness with a goal to create a comprehensive ecosystem for the industry... combine a new way of working with a new level of investment, doubling its agri-finance and agribusiness commitments to \$9 billion annually by 2030."

In the same announcement, WBG president Ajay Banga said: "We stand at a crossroads, and the path we choose today will determine the future. The World Bank's ecosystem approach moves us beyond fragmented efforts to a constellation of solutions that includes everything from warehousing to logistics to production, but with smallholder farmers and producer organizations at the center."

At the event, Tiu Laurel said the Philippines suffers from a funding gap of P1.2 trillion for irrigation, with water supply needed for 1.2 million hectares of arable land.

He also discussed the importance of crafting policies that directly address the needs of farmers and fisherfolk. He acknowledged state-owned banks like the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines that facilitate credit and funding needs of farmers.

"The main aim is for farmers to increase yields and cropping intensity to increase income and become more bankable," he said as he pushed for the adoption of agricultural technologies and techniques.

He added that farmers have warmed up to the Department of Agriculture's plans, provided there is adequate government support, which includes subsidies and financing.

Tiu Laurel likewise addressed the ongoing challenges of climate change and the country's vulnerability to extreme weather disturbances. "We have just come from El Niño and are now encountering La Niña. We need to invest heavily in the infrastructure and logistics of our food systems, such as the storage of water, grains, meat and vegetables."

The DA chief also engaged in high-level discussions with WBG officials in the East Asia and Pacific region, seeking assistance for the country's agricultural and human capital development, alongside efforts to draw more private investments.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/29/business/top-business/world-bank-support-sought-for-agri-sector/1992729>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Ports record 8.6% fall in Sept. fish deliveries

By Janine Alexis Miguel
October 29, 2024

DELIVERIES of fish and its by-products across the country in September totaled 36,844 metric tons (MT), 8.6 percent lower than the 40,354 MT in the third quarter last year due to inclement weather and fewer commercial fishing vessels, according to the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA).

The PFDA report also noted the September deliveries were 13 percent lower than the 42,354 MT in August.

Nonetheless, two regional fish ports (RFPs) posted higher outputs. The Camaligan Fish Port in Camarines Sur logged over 0.44 MT of fish last month, a 111-percent increase from the 0.21 MT the previous month. Meanwhile, the Davao Fish Port Complex received 204.15 MT of fish, or 64.92 percent higher than the 123.783 MT in August.

The PFDA attributed these increased yields to the end of the three-month fishing ban implemented annually from June 1 to August 31 in the Davao Gulf.

"It is expected that fish unloading at the PFDA-Davao Fish Port Complex will continue a positive recovery toward the end of the year," the PFDA said.

Seven ports, on the other hand, recorded lower deliveries last month, citing unfavorable weather conditions.

The Navotas Fish Port, the country's largest, offered 13,559 MT of fish, down by 14 percent compared to August's 15,809 MT.

Fish deliveries to the Lucena Fish Port Complex fell a bit to 1,307 MT from 1,669 MT in August.

Likewise, the General Santos Fish Port Complex saw a decrease in deliveries at 17,773 MT or a 9.8-percent decline from 19,718 MT.

The Bulan Fish Port Complex also logged lower numbers at 1,249 MT from 1,328 MT in August.

Much apparent were the low figures from the Iloilo Fish Port Complex at 2,038 MT, or a 25.18 percent drop from 2,724 MT two months ago.

This was also the story at Zamboanga Fish Port Complex, with only 680.75 MT of fish compared to 944.27 MT unloaded in August.

The Sual Fish Port noted fewer trips of fishing vessels for its 30 MT of fish deliveries.

In any case, "the PFDA RFPs are continuously giving their best to provide enough and rightly priced fishery products to their clients and stakeholders," the PFDA said.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/29/business/top-business/ports-record-86-fall-in-sept-fish-deliveries/1992726>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Tight import rules may curb fish supply— PCC

Andrea E. San Juan
October 28, 2024



THE Philippine Competition Commission’s (PCC) competition impact assessment (CIA) team has found that “stringent” importation requirements for certain species of fish could result in reduced supply, limited choices for consumers and an uneven playing field in favor of institutional buyers.

“The CIA highlighted possible competition concerns arising from the implementation of Fisheries Administrative Order [FAO] No. 195-99 and FAO No. 259-18, which outline the rules and regulations for importing fresh/chilled/frozen fish and fishery/aquatic products,” PCC said in a statement on Monday.

“The CIA Team cautioned that stringent importation requirements for certain species of fish could result in reduced supply, limited choices for consumers, and creation of an uneven playing field in favor of institutional buyers,” the country’s competition watchdog also noted.

BUSINESS MIRROR:

DA targets 81% sufficiency in corn, cassava for 2025

Ada Pelonia

October 28, 2024

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) aims to achieve 81-percent sufficiency in corn and cassava in 2025 as part of efforts to achieve food security.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the DA recognized the relevance of corn and cassava, noting how the department has been pushing for advancements in these commodities.

For 2025, the DA said that through its National Corn Program, it plans to allocate P5.31 billion for high-quality planting materials, fertilizers, training, postharvest machinery, and small-scale irrigation projects.

The DA noted that cassava is under the umbrella of the National Corn Program.

“Next year, the department is targeting the local production of at least 81 percent of total demand and aims to increase yields to 5.17 metric tons [MT] per hectare for yellow corn, 2.29 metric tons per hectare for white corn, and 11.73 metric tons per hectare for cassava,” Laurel said.

“Increasing the production of white corn will provide more options for available food staples, which is essential for achieving food security.”

The agriculture chief also mentioned the Corn Production Enhancement Project (CPEP), which was established to boost corn productivity, increase income and enhance national corn sufficiency.

“The project provides seeds and fertilizers to eligible farmers, and as of August 2024, we have distributed over 1,700 metric tons of corn seeds and nearly 2.9 million cassava seed pieces, along with almost 6,000 metric tons of fertilizers,” Laurel said.

Meanwhile, Philippine Maize Federation Inc. (PhilMaize) Vice Chair Artemio Salazar formally turned over to the DA the program documents related to the crafting of the Philippine White Corn Industry Roadmap 2024-2029, which would serve as a guide for the sector.

“This roadmap aims to promote white corn consumption and increase its supply in the market simultaneously, as mandated by DA Special Order No. 1488, series of 2023.”

The DA, in partnership with the Philippine Maize Federation Inc. (PhilMaize) and other relevant agencies, recently held the 17th Philippine National Corn Congress last October 24-25.

The department said this year’s theme, “Maunlad na Maisan, Tungo sa Matatag na Bagong Pilipinas,” emphasized the need for a unified approach and policies among stakeholders and policymakers to help the corn industry achieve its goals.

“Iisa lang po ang layunin ng bawat ka-mais o corn grower, na maging masagana ang kanilang kabuhayan, gaya rin ng mga kasama nating feed millers, negosyante, traders, corn seed growers, at iba pang [Our corn growers have only one goal: for their livelihood to improve like the feed millers, businessmen, traders, corn seed growers and other] corn industry stakeholders,” Philmaize President Romualdo Elvira Jr. said.

“We are happy that today, there is a chance for corn cluster leaders from different regions to come together with dedicated stakeholders to discuss the state of the industry and recommends programs and plans that suit each locality or region,” he added, partly in Filipino.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/28/da-targets-81-sufficiency-in-corn-cassava-for-2025/>

ABANTE TONITE

Patakaran sa mga imported fish pabor sa malalaking buyer – PCC

October 28, 2024

Pinapaboran ng mga patakaran ng National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (NFARMC) ang mga malalaking buyer o institutional buyers sa ilalim ng Fisheries Administrative Order No. 195-99 at FAO No. 259-18.

Ito ang lumabas sa pag-aaral ng Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) sa isinagawang Competition Impact Assessment (CIA) ng ahensiya tungkol sa fish importation regulations na ibinahagi nito sa NFARMC sa isang strategic policy dialogue.

Ayon sa PCC, napakahigpit ng requirements sa pag-angkat ng ilang species ng isda kaya nababawasan ang suplay at limitado ang nagiging pagpipilian ng mga konsyumer.

Binigyang-diin pa ng PCC na hindi patas ang nagiging labanan sa importation na pumapabor sa institutional buyers.

Sabi ng PCC, ginawa nang digital reporting sa importation ng isda at isa ito sa mga hakbang ng Department of Agriculture para mapaganda ang regulasyon.

Ang importasyon ng mga isdang tulad ng galunggong at maliliit na isda ay ginagawa habang closed fishing season kung kailan ipinagbabawal muna ang pangingsda sa iba't ibang karagatan sa bansa para magkaroon ng pagkakataon ang mga isda na magparami muli. (Eileen Mencias)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/10/28/patakaran-sa-mga-imported-fish-pabor-sa-malalaking-buyer-pcc/>