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MANILA BULLETIN:

DA to study emergency use of ASF vaccine in PH

BY [JEL SANTOS](#)

Oct 3, 2024 04:36 PM



DA SECRETARY FRANCISCO TIU LAUREL JR. (JEL SANTOS/MB PHOTO)

The Department of Agriculture (DA) will review a request to grant emergency use authorization (EUA) for the African Swine Fever (ASF) vaccine from Vietnam, Agriculture Secretary Francisco “Kiko” Tiu Laurel Jr. said on Thursday, Oct. 3.

But he noted that the authorization would depend on President Marcos declaring the current ASF outbreak a national emergency.

Currently, the ASF vaccine is under monitored release as granted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to the manufacturer.

“We will study their request, which will allow greater access to the ASF vaccine for backyard piggeries,” Laurel said in a statement.

The agency explained that the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), as defined by the US Food and Drug Administration, is a mechanism intended to expedite the availability and use of medical countermeasures, such as vaccines, during public health emergencies.

Recently, a group urged President Marcos to declare the African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak a national emergency to allow the widespread use of vaccines currently in controlled trials by the Department of Agriculture (DA) through the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).

The group highlighted that the same vaccine had been previously tested in Vietnam and the Philippines, yielding “favorable results.”

As such, they pointed out that in recent vaccinations carried out by the DA and BAI in Lobo, Batangas, 34 piglets exhibited a 40 percent antibody response.

The ASF vaccine was first administered in Lobo, Batangas on Aug. 30 wherein small-hold and backyard hog-raisers were prioritized.

For the controlled use of the ASF vaccine, the government has allocated 10,000 doses for Batangas province.

It can be recalled that the Philippine government has allocated ₱300 million to purchase 600,000 doses of the ASF vaccine from Vietnam.

ASF resurfaced in the Philippines in 2019, spreading to more than 3,800 barangays across 53 provinces by mid-2022. This led to a nearly 25 percent decline in local pork production from June to October 2021 versus the same period in 2020.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/3/da-to-study-emergency-use-of-asf-vaccine-in-ph>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Marcos hails First Lady's LAB for All health program

BY [ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS](#)

Oct 3, 2024 01:39 PM

AT A GLANCE

- President Marcos assured the public that his administration would continue making health and government services more accessible to the people.

President Marcos has nothing but praise for his wife, First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, for being a partner in his administration's health advocacy through her LAB for All caravan which has already visited 35 locations nationwide since it started in May 2023.



MPC

pool

In his speech during the LAB for All program in Pasig City on Thursday, Oct. 3, the President said he was lucky to have the First Lady as his wife, as he thanked her dedication to helping the public even without fanfare.

“Halatang-halata niyo po na hindi po politiko dahil hindi masyadong pinag-uusapan itong napakagandang programa na ito. Kung politiko ang nagpatakbo nito siguro katakot-takot na publicity na yung lumalabas, lalo na ngayon panahon ng eleksyon (It’s obvious that she is not a politician because we don’t really talk about this great program. If a politician was running it, we would have seen a lot of publicity stunts, especially with the coming elections),” he said.

“Ngunit ang First Lady po ay hindi iyon ang iniisip. Iniisip lang niya kung paano makatulong at napakalaking tulong itong ginawa niyang project na LAB for All (But the First Lady doesn’t think like that. She just wants to help and her LAB for All project is a big help for the people),” he added.

The LAB For All is a priority project of the First Lady who was also present during the caravan in Pasig. The project delivers laboratory and medical services, making healthcare accessible to the people, regardless of their background or geographical location.

According to the President, the LAB for All project was important as he noted that health is a person’s most priceless treasure.

“Walang silbi ang lahat ng yaman kung hindi maayos ang ating kalusugan (All the riches in the world are useless if we are not healthy),” he said.

“Ngunit para sa mga kapuspalad nating kababayan, higit na mas malaking pagsubok ang pagkakasakit, lalo na ang mga nasa malalayong lugar (But for our less unfortunate countrymen, being sick is a big challenge, especially for those living in geographically isolated areas),” he added.

Meanwhile, President Marcos assured the public that his administration would continue making health and government services more accessible to the people.

“Imbis na hintayin natin ang mga may karamdaman na makapunta sa mga ospital, dadalhin po natin sa kanila ang serbisyo para meron silang healthcare kahit sa malalayo (Instead of waiting for the sick to go to the hospital, we will bring health services to them, no matter how far they are),” he said.

“Patuloy po tayo sa pagpapatupad ng mga proyekto upang magkaroon ng rural health unit, doctor, nurse, ambulansya, mobile health clinic, at iba pang mga kagamitan ang lahat ng lalawigan sa bansa (We will continue implementing programs so every region will have rural health units, doctors, nurses, ambulances, mobile health clinics, and other equipment),” he added.

With this, President Marcos assured the public that they would bring the LAB for All caravan to more parts of the country.

“Hindi lang ito isang araw lamang. Sinisiguro namin na marami pang mga komunidad sa bawat siyudad at probinsya ang mabibisita ng LAB for All (This is not for just one day. We will make sure that more communities will be visited by this caravan),” he said.

Other services provided

Aside from medical services, the LAB for ALL caravan in Pasig City also offered other government services, including scholarship grants by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the provision of assorted vegetable seeds and fruit tree seedlings by the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD),

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also extended services to the public during the caravan.

Other agencies that participated included the Land Transportation Office (LTO), National Housing Authority (NHA), Pag-IBIG, Public Attorney's Office (PAO), Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), and the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth).

The Senate Public Assistance Office and the Technical Education And Skills Development Authority (TESDA) also extended their respective services during the LAB For All caravan.

During the program, the President and the First Lady visited the ongoing LAB for All services at the Rizal High School and led the turnover of three LAB for All Mobile Laboratories to the Municipality of Sta. Catalina in Ilocos Sur, Tacloban City Government, and Pasig City Government.

The national government procured Bagong Pilipinas Mobile Clinics for deployment in every province and city in the National Capital Region (NCR) or Metro Manila. As of Oct 2, all 83 provinces have been provided with the said mobile clinics, complementing the capacity of existing health facilities and reaching more patients in remote and underserved areas.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/3/marcos-hails-lab-for-all>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Meat imports breach 750,000 MT in 7 months

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

October 4, 2024 | 12:00am



Latest Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) data showed meat imports from January to July reached 757,296.82 MT, about 7.84 percent higher than the 702,243.32 MT recorded volume in the same period last year.

Philstar.com / Irra Lising

MANILA, Philippines — The country's meat imports continue to grow this year as total volume at the end of July rose by almost eight percent on an annual basis to over 750,000 metric tons (MT), driven by higher pork and beef purchases abroad.

Latest Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) data showed meat imports from January to July reached 757,296.82 MT, about 7.84 percent higher than the 702,243.32 MT recorded volume in the same period last year.

Pork imports accounted for almost half of the total meat purchases during the seven-month period with volume reaching 372,941.232 MT. The volume was 7.54 percent over the 346,789.904 MT recorded pork imports a year ago, based on BAI data released yesterday.

The country continued to turn to foreign supplies to augment its domestic stocks of pork as the local hog industry continues to reel from the threats of African swine fever (ASF).

The US Department of Agriculture – Foreign Agricultural Service in Manila earlier projected the Philippines would be importing 480,000 MT of pork this year to boost its supply as domestic output would remain lackluster amid the ASF scare.

BAI data showed that beef imports exhibited the highest growth rate at 30 percent year-on-year as total purchases abroad reached 101,689.333 MT from last year's 77,713.107 MT.

Industry stakeholders have earlier noted that local beef demand is steadily growing across all classes as people's income increases.

The industry earlier noted that consumers have been looking for cheaper alternatives to pork, such as chicken and perhaps now beef.

Meanwhile, the country's chicken meat imports grew by 2.4 percent on an annual basis to 255,375.877 MT from last year's 249,370.722 MT.

Foreign purchases of chicken fats, chicken skin and mechanically deboned meat (MDM) lifted the overall imports of chicken meat during the reference period. Only these three chicken meat products posted increments during the seven-month period.

Imports of chicken MDM rose by 5.5 percent year-on-year to 145,846.949 MT from 138,209.455 MT, based on BAI data.

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) earlier projected that the country's total meat imports this year would reach 1.09 million MT, slightly higher than last year's estimated volume of 1.045 million MT.

The FAO attributed the increase in meat imports to the extension of reduced tariffs on pork as well as growing demand by Filipinos for more poultry and bovine meats.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/10/04/2389915/meat-imports-breach-750000-mt-7-months>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA studying calls for emergency use of ASF vaccine

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

October 4, 2024 | 12:00am



MANILA, Philippines — A request by hog farmers for President Marcos to issue emergency use authorization (EUA) for an African swine fever (ASF) vaccine is being studied, according to Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

The grant of the EUA will depend on Marcos, who will decide whether to declare the current ASF outbreak a national emergency, Tiu Laurel said.

“We will study their request, which will give backyard hog raisers greater access to ASF vaccine,” he said.

Tiu Laurel said hog farmers have asked for his help in convincing Marcos to approve the EUA for an ASF vaccine manufactured in Vietnam.

The EUA issuance will help facilitate the availability and use of medical countermeasures, including vaccines, during public health emergencies.

The EUA was used during the COVID pandemic, which allowed the procurement and use of vaccines to combat the virus.

Hog farmers led by AGAP party-list Rep. Nicanor Briones asked Marcos to declare the ASF outbreak as a national emergency to enable the mass use of vaccines currently undergoing trial by the Department of Agriculture.

The group said the vaccine was previously tested in Vietnam and the Philippines' recent controlled trial showed favorable results.

It said a majority of inoculated pigs in Lobo, Batangas developed antibodies.

Up to 6.3 million piglets and fatteners can be inoculated once the government issues an EUA for the Vietnam-made vaccine, the group said.

The EUA will benefit backyard hog raisers who have been incurring losses since ASF started affecting pigs in 2019.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/10/04/2389958/da-studying-calls-emergency-use-asf-vaccine>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Tiu Laurel revamps DA price watch personnel

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

October 4, 2024 | 12:00am



Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr..

STAR / Jesse Bustos

MANILA, Philippines — Department of Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has ordered the strict monitoring of the retail prices of agricultural commodities as he implemented a revamp of DA personnel assigned to conduct daily price watch in over 40 Metro Manila markets.

Tiu Laurel issued Special Order No. 1480 reorganizing the price monitoring team of the DA-Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service.

He ordered AMAS personnel to conduct daily price monitoring, including holidays and weekends, as necessary.

“They are required to be at their respective market assignments by 5 a.m.,” Tiu Laurel said.

Among the establishments covered by the price monitoring are Muñoz Market, Cloverleaf Balintawak, Mega Q-Mart, Kamuning Market, Shopwise Cubao, Hi-Top Supermarket, Landmark-Trinoma and Murphy Public Market, Puregold and Waltermart in Roosevelt, Commonwealth Market, Robinsons-Fairview, Juliana Balintawak Market, Farmer's Market and Fisher Supermarket, all in Quezon City.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/10/04/2389988/tiu-laurel-revamps-da-price-watch-personnel>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Marcos renews commitment to strengthen health care system

[Alexis Romero](#) - The Philippine Star

October 4, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos yesterday encouraged the public to take advantage of free available medical services as he reiterated his commitment to strengthen the country’s health care system.

In his speech during the visit of the “LAB for ALL” caravan in Pasig, Marcos cited the need to take care of one’s health and to ensure that health services are accessible to people in far-flung areas.

Citing health department data, Marcos said there are more than 7,000 geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas and projects like the “LAB for ALL” help address the gap in the health care system.

“We continue to implement projects so that all provinces in the country will have a rural health unit, doctor, nurse, ambulance, mobile health clinic and other equipment,” he said.

A project of First Lady Liza Marcos, LAB for ALL offers free consultation, medicines and basic laboratory tests to enhance access to health care. The caravan, which was launched in May last year, has visited 35 locations nationwide. The caravan also aims to bring other government services to the public, including scholarship grants and the processing of housing and driver’s license requirements.

Other agencies and government entities that extended services through the caravan include the Department of Agriculture, Development Bank of the Philippines, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Trade and Industry, Food and Drug Administration, Land Transportation Office, National Housing Authority, Pag-IBIG, Public Attorney’s Office, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Philippine Health Insurance Corp.

“We are ensuring that more communities in cities and provinces will be visited by ‘LAB for ALL.’ Where there are needy Filipinos, your government will work so that these services will reach them,” Marcos said.

The President and the First Lady also led the turnover of three LAB for ALL mobile laboratories to the municipality of Sta. Catalina in Ilocos Sur, Tacloban City and Pasig City. He thanked the Metrobank Foundation and Toyota Foundation for donating three mobile vans with medical equipment such as x-ray, ultrasound machine, portable urine analyzer and glucose and cholesterol monitor that were turned over to the three local governments.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/10/04/2390011/marcos-renews-commitment-strengthen-health-care-system>

Typhoon Julian – which brought heavy rains, flooding and landslides in northern Luzon – left at least two people dead, eight people injured, and one person still missing, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

In a report, the NDRRMC said the two fatalities are from the Ilocos region and CAR. The eight people injured and one person reported missing were also from the same regions.

The NDRRMC said a total of 58,953 families or 211,000 people in the Ilocos, CAR and Cagayan Valley were affected.

Of the number, some 308 families or 922 people still remain in 26 different evacuation centers in affected provinces where their basic needs are being provided.

The damage of Typhoon Julian to the agriculture sector in the CAR, Ilocos (Region 1) and Central Luzon (Region 3) has reached P481.27 million, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The damage was recorded in rice, corn, high value crops, livestock, poultry and irrigation facilities affecting 20,134 farmers, covering 13,488 hectares of agri-

cultural areas and volume of production loss at 19,151 metric tons. – **Michael Punongbayan, Bella Cariaso**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/10/04/2390013/signal-1-batanes-julian-reenters-par>

Agri damage from Typhoon Julian reaches over P36M

By: [Faith Argosino](#) - Reporter / [@FArgosinoINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 12:50 PM October 03, 2024



WASHED OUT A temporary bridge connecting Barangay Nalasin to the town center of Solsona in Ilocos Norte is destroyed by floodwaters caused by heavy rains dumped by Super Typhoon Julian on September 30, 2024. — ALFONSO JEZIEL DE LOS REYES/CONTRIBUTOR

MANILA, Philippines — The agricultural damage caused by Typhoon Julian (international: Krathon) has reached P36.34 million, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

In a bulletin released on Wednesday evening, the DA said the damage covers 1,516 metric tons and 577 hectares of agricultural areas in Ilocos Region and Cagayan Valley. The typhoon has so far affected 1,000 farmers.

The DA also said it has conducted price monitoring for possible changes in the prices of agricultural commodities.

To help affected farmers, the DA prepared P143.26 million worth of rice, corn, and vegetable seeds, among others.

Julian re-entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) around 8 a.m. on Thursday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Julian was last monitored 245 kilometers northwest of Itbayat, Batanes. It was moving east-northeastward, packing maximum sustained winds of 120 kilometers per hour (kph) with gusts of up to 165 kph, Pagasa said.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1989487/agri-damage-from-typhoon-julian-reaches-over-p36m>

Typhoon Julian kills 2, affects 211,000 people – NDRRMC

By: [Faith Argosino](#) - Reporter / [@FArgosinoINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 02:07 PM October 03, 2024



WASHED OUT A temporary bridge connecting Barangay Nalasin to the town center of Solsona in Ilocos Norte is destroyed by floodwaters caused by heavy rains dumped by Super Typhoon Julian on September 30, 2024. — ALFONSO JEZIEL DE LOS REYES/CONTRIBUTOR

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Julian (international name: Krathon) killed at least two people and affected 211,000 individuals, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported on Thursday.

Based on the NDRRMC's data, there is one fatality in the Ilocos Region and the other in the Cordillera Administrative Region. The agency said the information is still up for validation.

Meanwhile, the number of injured and missing remained at eight and one, respectively.

Of the 211,000 affected individuals, 3,171 were displaced — 922 people are inside evacuation centers, while 2,249 took shelter elsewhere.



In a separate report, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said the damage caused by Julian had reached P36.34 million and it affected 1,000 farmers.

The damage covers 1,516 metric tons and 577 hectares of agricultural areas in the Ilocos Region and Cagayan Valley, the DA added.

Earlier, the state weather bureau announced that Julian re-entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility around 8 a.m. on Thursday.

It was last monitored 245 kilometers northwest of Itbayat, Batanes, moving east-northeastward as it carried maximum sustained winds of 120 kilometers per hour (kph) with gusts of up to 165 kph.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1989500/typhoon-julian-kills-2-affects-211000-people-ndrrmc>

PH gov't urged to allow emergency use of ASF vaccines

By: [Jason Sigales](#) - Reporter / [@jasonsigaesINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 03:19 PM October 03, 2024



PHOTO FROM AFP/INQUIRER FILES

MANILA, Philippines — Swine industry leaders are urging President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to authorize the emergency use of African Swine Fever (ASF) vaccines.

In a letter to Marcos presented last week to Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., pork producers said the emergency use of the ASF vaccine would result in the inoculation of 6.3 million piglets and fasteners.

[Emergency use authorization](#) would allow the use of unregistered vaccines in a public health emergency, according to the Food and Drug Administration.

[The ASF has affected the country's pig farming sector](#) since it was first reported in 2019, decreasing the hog population from 12.7 million to 9.9 million in 2023, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said.

Last August, the DA purchased 600,000 doses of a Vietnamese-made ASF vaccine. The remaining shipment of 440,000 is expected to arrive this October.

The ASF vaccine is currently for monitored release while it undergoes controlled trials through the Bureau of Animal Industries.

Laurel said the DA would study the proposal to give wider access to the ASF vaccine.

<https://business.inquirer.net/483315/ph-govt-urged-to-allow-emergency-use-of-asf-vaccines>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Meat imports up 7.84% by volume in first 7 months

October 3, 2024 | 9:18 pm



REUTERS

THE volume of meat imports rose 7.84% in the seven months to July, led by beef, chicken, and pork, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) reported.

The BAI said on Thursday that imports rose to 757.3 million kilograms.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel V. de Mesa said that the increase in meat imports was driven by the anticipated low supply of pork due to the resurgence of African Swine Fever (ASF).

As of Sept. 20, 125 municipalities across 31 provinces had active ASF cases, the BAI reported.

“Expect higher imports versus last year,” Mr. De Mesa said via Messenger chat.

Meat imports in July declined 1.72% to 109.55 million kilos.

Accounting for about 49.25% of all imports, pork shipments rose 7.54% to 372.94 million kilos for the first seven months.

Spain supplied around 80.73 million kilos of pork, followed by Brazil (71.96 million kilos) and Canada (46.75 million kilos) during the period.

Shipments of chicken totaled 255.38 million kilos in the seven months to July. Shipments rose 2.41% and accounted for 33.72% of meat imports.

Brazil remained the top supplier of chicken with 121.14 million kilos, followed by the US (67.48 million kilos) and Australia (9.17 million kilos).

Beef imports increased 30.9% to 101.69 million kilos during the seven months, accounting for 13.43% of total meat imports.

Beef from Brazil amounted to 30.52 million kilos, followed by Australia (24.2 million kilos), and Ireland (7.7 million kilos).

Imports of turkey meat more than doubled to 897,369 kilos during the period.

Meanwhile, shipments of buffalo, duck, and lamb declined during the seven-month period.

Shipments of buffalo dropped 8.7% to 25.89 million kilos.

Imports of duck and lamb fell during the period by 51.32% to 97,270 kilos and by 17.33% to 401,066 kilos, respectively. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/10/03/625824/meat-imports-up-7-84-by-volume-in-first-7-months/>

REMATE:

3 NegOr LGUs walang naitalang ASF cases sa mga nakalipas na linggo

October 3, 2024 17:20



DUMAGUETE CITY- Nasa tatlong bayan sa Negros Oriental ang patungo na sa “pink zone” category matapos makapagtala ng “zero” African Swine Fever (ASF) cases sa mga nakalipas na linggo.

Sinabi ni Jaymar Vilos, spokesperson-designate ng Provincial Veterinary Office, nitong Miyerkules na kamakailan ay idineklara ang Bais City na “pink zone” at naghahanda nang magpadala o magbenta ng mg baboy sa labas ng coverage area nito.

Sinisikap naman ng dalawa pang bayan, ang Ayungon at Vallehermoso, na makumpleto ang mga papeles para sa deklarasyon nito bilang isang pink zone, ayon sa opisyal.

Pormal na inilathala ng Bureau of Agriculture Industry ang pag-upgrade sa Bais City bilang pink zone, dagdag niya.

Paliwanag ni Vilos, nangangahulugan ang pink zone category na itinuturing ang lugar na “safe from ASF due to standard safety requirements complied by the LGU (local government unit).”

Bukod sa pinapayagang magpadala ng live hogs sa labas ng coverage areas nito, ang pink zone ay kwalipikado para sa government assistance at magpapatuloy ang insurance ng live hogs.

Hinikayat naman ni Vilos ang LGUs na tumalima sa documentary requirements upang maideklara itong pink zone at kalaunan ay bilang green zone. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/3-negor-lgus-walang-naitalang-asf-cases-sa-mga-nakalipas-na-linggo/>

REMATE:

P557.M kita inaasahan ng NFA sa mas mataas na selling price sa gov't agencies

October 3, 2024 10:02



MANILA, Philippines – Umaasa ang National Food Authority (NFA) na makakakuha ito ng mahigit sa kalahating bilyong pisong kita sa mataas na selling price ng mga bigas sa Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) at iba pang ahensya ng pamahalaan.

Sa pahayag, sinabi ni Agriculture Secretary and NFA Council chairman Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. na inaprubahan ng NFA ang pagtataas sa selling price ng bigas.

“The higher selling price agreed to by the DSWD will help not only reduce NFA losses but also give it additional resources to buy more palay from our farmers,” ani Tiu Laurel, sabay-sabing ang price hike ay makakakuha ng karagdagang kita na P557.3 milyon para sa taong kasalukuyan.

Noong 2023, nakapagtala ng NFA ng net loss na P6.19 bilyon sa pagsisikap nitong ipursige ang mandatong bumili ng palay mula sa mga local na magsasaka at bumuo ng nine-day buffer stock na nasa 300,000 metric tons ng bigas.

Ayon kay NFA Administrator Larry Lacson, magbibigay daan ang karagdagang kita para makabili pa ang NFA ng mas maraming palay mula sa mga magsasaka, na magpapalakas sa rice buffer ng ahensya at magpapataas sa kita ng mga magsasaka.

“At a buying price of P28 a kilo of palay the additional revenue from our sales to DSWD will allow us to buy an additional 400,000 50-kilo bags of palay. That’s easily 12,600 metric tons of incremental rice supply,” ani Lacson.

“We thank the DSWD for their understanding and support of this price adjustment,” dagdag niya.

Aniya, ang selling price ay tumaas ng P38 kada kilo mula sa P25 kada kilo sa DSWD, iba pang relief agencies at mga LGU na wala naming epekto sa market price ng bigas.

Ngayong taon, inaprubahan ng NFA Council ang mas mataas na buying price na mula P17 hanggang P30 kada kilo mula sa P16 hanggang P23 kada kilo noong nakaraang taon para kumpetensyahin ang mga pribadong trader na nagpataas sa presyo ng bigas dahil sa El Niño at rice export ban ng India.

Dahil sa adjustment ng palay procurement price, nakabili ang NFA ng nasa 3.5 milyong 50-kilo bags ng palay sa katapusan ng first half, matapos na makabili lamang ng mas mababa sa 200,000 bag bago ang desisyon ng NFA Council noong Hunyo.

Para sa wet season, plano ng NFA na bumili ng 6.4 milyon hanggang 8.4 milyong bag ng palay.

Humihirit ang NFA mula sa Department of Budget and Management na agaran nang ilabas ang P9 bilyong rice procurement funds. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/p557-m-kita-inaasahan-ng-nfa-sa-mas-mataas-na-selling-price-sa-govt-agencies/>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Policy changes to boost agriculture – Concepcion

By Catherine S. Valente
October 4, 2024

GO Negosyo founder Jose Ma. "Joey" Concepcion III on Thursday said the country's agriculture sector could reach its full potential if it redefines strategies and adopts modern practices.

Concepcion, the Private Sector Advisory Council Jobs Committee lead, said such an approach requires embracing science and innovation, implementing policy adjustments, and attracting investments from the public and private sectors.

"The Philippines has such an incredible stock of agricultural resources that can easily sustain industries and create jobs, yet we have only scratched the surface of its potential," he said in a statement.

"We need to achieve higher agricultural productivity and inclusive growth across all the stakeholders in the sector," he said.

Agriculture contributed 9.1 percent to the country's gross domestic product in 2022 and employs more than 10 million Filipinos.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority indicates that agriculture posted negative growth in the second quarter of 2024.

Concepcion said the urgency of boosting the country's agriculture and achieving food security has only increased following recent supply chain disruptions and the increasing consequences of the climate crisis.

In a speech before the representatives from the Philippine and European governments at the recent 2024 Agri Sustainable Forum organized by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Go Negosyo senior adviser and former Agriculture secretary William Dar pointed out numerous factors that have impeded the growth of the sector.

These include the prevalence of small farm holdings, protectionist trade policies, limited climate resiliency implementation, limited access to financial resources, and the lack of post-harvest and other infrastructure facilities.

Go Negosyo has advocated for increased agricultural productivity and entrepreneurship through its Kapatid Angat Lahat sa Agri Program (Kalap).

This year, it expanded the advocacy to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) region through the Asean Food Security Alliance (AFSA), which is implemented through the Asean Business Advisory Council.

"We have initiated steps to scale up agriculture through big-brother investments," Concepcion said, referring to the more than 50 large agriculture companies that have signed up to make smallholder farmers part of their value chain, particularly in commodity crops.

Kalap has gotten the support of 18 government partners and 24 commodity industries.

AFSA, meanwhile, comprises leading Philippine corporations in agriculture and their Asean counterparts.

The alliance was formed to develop cooperative relationships within the public and private sectors to ensure food security for the entire region.

Within just a year of its formation, AFSA has completed a successful agriculture trade mission to Malaysia, which resulted in follow-through projects in agarwood, durian and bananas.

An upcoming trade mission to Laos will tackle similar partnerships in rice, durian, coconut, poultry, banana, agarwood, and biofertilizer.

Go Negosyo is also pursuing policy reforms and partnerships. These include a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Agrarian Reform to support agrarian reform beneficiaries through cluster and cooperative farming and land lease agreements for agriculture development.

It is also co-developing, through Kalap, a finance model for smallholders and replicating existing credit schemes for various commodities.

"The key to achieving this is enabling our farmers to become agripreneurs," Concepcion said.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/04/news/national/policy-changes-to-boost-agriculture-concepcion/1978877>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Emergency ASF vaccine use urged

By Earl John Alfaro
October 4, 2024

HOG farmers and swine industry groups have asked President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., through the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI), to approve the emergency use authorization (EUA) of the African swine fever (ASF) vaccine from Vietnam.

In a letter coursed through Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., the groups, led by AGAP Partylist Rep. Nicanor Briones, are urging Marcos to declare the ASF outbreak a national emergency to enable the mass use of the vaccine that is currently in controlled trials by the DA-BAI.

"We will study their request, which will allow greater access to the ASF vaccine for backyard piggeries," Tiu Laurel said after meeting with the group last week.

An EUA, according to the US Food and Drug Administration, is a mechanism that facilitates the availability and use of medical countermeasures, including vaccines, during public health emergencies. It was the same mechanism used during the Covid-19 pandemic that allowed the use of unapproved vaccines against the virus.

The groups said the ASF vaccine has been tested in Vietnam and the Philippines "with favorable results." They claimed that in the recent vaccination drive conducted by the DA-BAI in Lobo, Batangas, 34 piglets yielded 40-percent antibody levels. The groups hope that future tests will show an increase in the piglets' antibodies.

Approximately 6.3 million piglets and fatteners could be inoculated if the government allows the emergency use of the ASF vaccine.

It could also enable the full recovery of the swine industry from ASF, the groups said.

Along with AGAP, signatories to the letter to the President include Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines Inc., Cooperative Union of Batangas, SoroSoro Ibaba Development Cooperative, Luntian Multipurpose Cooperative, Limcoma Multipurpose Cooperative, and Cavite Farmers Feedmilling and Marketing Cooperative.

On September 9, Tiu Laurel ordered the nationwide testing of the ASF vaccine by expanding the controlled ASF vaccinations to other areas in Luzon, as well as those designated as "red zones" in the Visayas and Mindanao.

The agriculture chief said La Union, Quezon, Mindoro, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Cebu will be added to the BAI's controlled testing of the initial 150,000 doses of ASF vaccines imported from Vietnam to ensure a steady supply of pork in the market and to stabilize prices.

As of September 20, there were 31 provinces with active cases of ASF, while affected barangay (villages) grew to 524 from 472, BAI data showed.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/04/business/top-business/emergency-asf-vaccine-use-urged/1978983>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

7-month meat imports rise 7.8%; beef imports jump 31%

Ada Pelonia
October 4, 2024

Data from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) showed that meat imports increased to 757,296 metric tons (MT) from January to July this year compared to the 702,243 MT recorded in the same period in 2023.

Chicken imports grew 2.41 percent to 255,375 MT from 249,370 MT. Mechanically deboned meat (MDM) accounted for a chunk of chicken imports at 145,846 MT

Based on BAI data, pork imports rose by 7.54 percent to 372,941 MT from the 346,789 MT recorded in the same period last year. Pork cuts accounted for most of the shipments, with offals trailing behind at 135,582 MT and 131,429 MT, respectively.

Beef imports registered the biggest increase as these jumped by 30.85 percent to 101,689 MT from 77,713 MT. Beef cuts held the bulk of the shipments at 67,351 MT.

Meanwhile, Brazil was the top supplier of beef and chicken imports at 30,519 MT and 121,135 MT, respectively.

In terms of pork imports, BAI data showed that Spain was the country's biggest supplier at 80,737 MT. This was followed by Brazil at 71,963 MT.

The United States Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agricultural Service in Manila (USDA-FAS Manila) earlier said that the country's meat imports are expected to increase next year on the back of population growth and a positive economic outlook.

“FAS Manila forecasts 2025 beef imports to increase to 226,000 metric tons [MT] carcass weight equivalent [CWE],” the report

read. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/22/phl-meat-imports-seen-to-grow-in-2025/>)

“Continued greater-than-six-percent economic growth and forecasted population increases support strong consumer purchasing power which will push beef imports higher in 2025,” it added.

The report also projected pork imports next year to reach 510,000 MT CWE, up over 6 percent from 2024.

“Continued animal disease challenges combined with strong economic growth and forecast population increases will push imports upward.”

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/04/7-month-meat-imports-rise-7-8-beef-imports-jump-31/>

ABANTE TONITE:

Agri group: Mga importer, trader tibatiba sa bigas

October 3, 2024

Umaabot na sa P10.47 bilyon ang nabawas sa koleksyon ng pamahalaan dahil sa tatlong buwang pagpapatupad ng tapyas-taripa sa bigas na 15% mula sa dating 35%, ayon sa Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (SINAG).

Mas malaki pa umano ito kaysa sa inaasahang kolektahin ng pamahalaan mula sa pagpataw ng value-added tax sa Netflix, Spotify, at iba pang foreign digital service provider.

Sinisi ng SINAG kay National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio Balisacan ang pagbagsak ng kita sa taripa ng bigas.

Ipinahayag ito ng grupo nang magpatawag ang NEDA ng stakeholders consultation tungkol sa pagpapatupad ng Executive Order No. 62 na nagbaba ng taripa sa bigas at iba pang mga produktong agrikultural hanggang 2028.

Pinagbibitiw ng SINAG at iba pang grupo sa sektor ng agrikultura si Balisacan dahil sa pagbraso umano nito sa pagbaba ng taripa sa kabila ng pagtutol ng sektor at hindi pagdaan sa tamang proseso nang tinulak ang EO 62.

Nangangamba rin ang SINAG dahil bumababa na ang farmgate price ng palay samantalang hindi pa dumarating ang bulto ng ani. Nasa P15-17 per kilo na lamang ang presyo ng basang palay at P18-P21 per kilo naman ang tuyong palay.

“Hindi pa panahon ng anihan, paano na lang sa peak harvest? Kung ang palay ay bibilhin na lang sa P14-P16 per kilo, mas mababa pa sa gastos sa produksyon na nasa P16 per kilo,” sabi ng SINAG.

“Bilyon ang kinita ng importers at traders, kapalit ng pakalugi ng mga magsasaka,” dagdag nila. “Ano ang gagawin ng NEDA?” (Eileen Mencias)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/10/03/agri-group-mga-importer-trader-tiba-tiba-sa-bigas/>

ABANTE TONITE:

Kamara kinasa Quinta Committee sa suplay, presyo ng pagkain

October 3, 2024

Pinagtibay ng Kamara de Representantes ang isang resolusyon na bumubuo sa Quinta Committee upang tugunan ang problema sa suplay at presyo ng pagkain sa bansa.

Ipinasa ang House Resolution No. 2036, na akda nina Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez at House Senior Deputy Speaker Aurelio Gonzales, sa huling sesyon ng plenaryo noong Setyembre 25.

Kabilang sa Quinta Committee ang House Committees on Ways and Means, Trade and Industry, Agriculture and Food, Social Services, at Special Committee on Food Security. Ang House Committee on Ways and Means ang mangunguna sa pagdinig.

Binigyan ang komite ng kapangyarihan upang imbestigahan ang mga programa ng gobyerno kaugnay ng pagtugon sa smuggling at manipulasyon sa presyo ng mga pangunahing biling, tugunan ang problema ng kagutuman, at pagtiyak ng seguridad sa masustansyang pagkain ng bansa.

Sa resolusyon, sinabi nina Romualdez at Gonzales na nagsagawa ng kanya-kanyang imbestigasyon ang limang komite na may kaugnayan sa isyu ng zero hunger at food security.

“During these inquiries, it is apparent that one committee cannot individually tackle the measures covering zero hunger and food security without encroaching with the jurisdiction of the other committees,” saad sa resolusyon.

Ayon sa mga mambabatas, ang joint inquiry ay makakatuwang ng whole-of-government approach ng gobyerno sa pagtugon sa mga problema sa pagkain batay sa Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 at Executive Order 66.

Inaasahan na maglalabas ang Quinta Committee ng komprehensibong ulat para sa mga posibleng batas na kailangang ipasa upang tugunan ang mga problema sa smuggling at manipulasyon sa presyo ng mga bilihin. (Billy Begas/Eralyn Prado)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/10/03/kamara-kinasa-quinta-committee-sa-suplay-presyo-ng-pagkain/>

ABANTE TONITE:

Mga magbababoy nagpasaklolo kay PBBM sa ASF vaccine

October 3, 2024

Nanawagan ang mga hog farmer kay Pangulong Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. na aprubahan ang emergency use authorization (EUA) ng bakuna laban sa African Swine Fever (ASF) na nagpaluhod sa industriya noon pang 2019.

Ginagamit na ngayon sa bansa ang bakuna galing Vietnam ngunit kailangang kasama ang pamahalaan sa paggamit nito dahil ang awtorisasyon ay para sa monitored release lamang.

Kapag may EUA, makakapag-angkat ang mga pribadong kompanya ng bakuna tulad ng ginawa sa kasagsagan ng COVID-19 pandemya.

Ayon kay Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., makakapag-isyu lamang ang Food and Drug Administration ng EUA para sa bakuna laban sa ASF kung ideklara ni Pangulong Marcos na national emergency ang kasalukuyang outbreak ng ASF.

“We will study their request which will allow greater access to the ASF vaccine for backyard piggeries,” sabi ni Laurel.

Sumulat na si AGAP Party-list Rep. Nicanor Briones kay Pangulong Marcos para ideklarang national emergency ang ASF outbreak upang makabili ang mga magbababoy ng bakuna. (Eileen Mencias/Migo Fajatin)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/10/03/mga-magbababoy-nagpasaklolo-kay-pbbm-sa-asf-vaccine/>