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MANILA BULLETIN:

NIA assures stable rice supply in Christmas despite typhoons

BY RAYMUND ANTONIO

Nov 10, 2024 03:01 PM

Filipinos will have stable access to rice in the coming Christmas season despite the subsequent typhoons that struck the country's agricultural lands these past weeks, National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Administrator Engr. Eduardo Guillen said.



President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. (Photo from the Presidential Communications Office)

He made the assurance during a recent Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon briefing wherein he gave updates on the status of the Philippines' rice supply as the country heads toward the holiday season.

“Not really. Based on my meeting with Sec. Kiko [Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.], we're okay,” he said in Filipino when asked if there are problems in the country's rice supply.

“So, iyong supply ay tinitingnan naman po ng Department of Agriculture iyan para mapunan, iyong hindi tayo magkulang ng bigas (The Department of Agriculture is monitoring the supply to augment it and make sure we will not be lacking),” the official added.

Guillen also assured that the Agriculture department is well-versed in how much rice the country needs to import this coming season.

The DA earlier said that Typhoons Kristine and Leon damaged nearly P7 billion in agricultural production, and affected 171,080 farmers and fisherfolk.

Meanwhile, the NIA administrator also said that the P29 rice being sold in “Kadiwa ng Pangulo” centers are continuously available for the eligible beneficiaries.

“In fact, ang totoo niyan eh, dito sa NIA na lang ano, pinapakiusapan namin iyong mga katabi naming communities na huwag nang pumila dahil kung sino naman ang pupunta diyan at iyong qualified naman po sila, bibigyan sila lahat (the truth is that the NIA is asking our nearby communities not to line up anymore because as long as they are qualified, they will be given access to the rice),” he explained.

Qualified beneficiaries, according to Guillen, are marginalized Filipinos—members of the government’s Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), persons with disabilities (PWDs), single parents, and senior citizens.

The P29 Rice-for-All program was launched in selected Kadiwa centers last August to bring closer President Marcos’ vision to ensure the availability of affordable food, particularly rice, to every Filipino.

The Kadiwa centers, on the other hand, were established as one of the government’s interventions to address the current state of the agricultural sector in the Philippines, including the continued modernization of farming in the country.

As of September this year, there are 447 Kadiwa stores and on-wheel sites fully operating across various regions.

The National Food Authority (NFA) also procured a large volume of palay at 6,472,299 bags for the period of January to October 2024 with a performance rate of 72.65 percent based on the 8,908,860 bags target for this year.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/10/nia-assures-stable-rice-supply-in-christmas-despite-typhoons>

MANILA BULLETIN:

PH to delay sugar import decision until mid-2025 amid stable domestic supply

BY JEL SANTOS & RAYMUND ANTONIO

Nov 10, 2024 01:37 PM



(MB FILE PHOTO)

The Philippine government will postpone its decision on sugar importation until mid-2025 to assess domestic supply levels after the current harvest season ends in May, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. announced on Sunday, Nov. 10.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) reached this decision after Laurel's recent meeting with Sugar Regulatory Authority (SRA) Administrator Pablo Luis Azcona.

Laurel said the Philippines currently has an ample supply of raw and refined sugar, which will meet the projected demand.

"Given the current situation, Administrator Azcona and I agreed that a decision on sugar importation could be delayed until after May, when the current harvest season ends," he said in a statement.

Azcona echoed this position, explaining that "our supply for both raw and refined sugar is stable, and we are just beginning our harvest season, so Sec. Laurel and I agree to delay the decision on sugar imports until after harvest sometime in May."

But Azcona noted that the harvest season has started more slowly than last year, with cane volume reaching only a third of what was harvested at the same point in the previous crop year. He attributed this lag to lower sugar content in the cane due to El Niño conditions.

"Farmers had to delay their harvests to allow the cane to mature further and increase sugar content," the SRA chief said.

According to the SRA, prolonged dry spells brought by El Niño have caused the cane to be physiologically immature, resulting in a 16 percent reduction in sugar content per ton.

SRA data showed that while sugar cane planting areas rose modestly to 389,461 hectares from 388,378 hectares in the previous year, production constraints persist.

The SRA projects this year's sugar production to reach 1.782 million metric tons, marking a 7.2 percent decline, while the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) forecasts a 3.6 percent drop in Philippine raw sugar output.

The USDA estimates production will decrease to 1.85 million metric tons, down from 1.92 million metric tons last year.

Stable rice supply

Filipinos will have stable access to rice in the coming Christmas season despite the subsequent typhoons that struck the country's agricultural lands these past weeks, National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Administrator Engr. Eduardo Guillen said.

He made the assurance during a recent Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon briefing wherein he gave updates on the status of the Philippines' rice supply as the country heads toward the holiday season.

"Not really. Based on my meeting with Sec. Kiko [Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.], we're okay," he said in Filipino when asked if there are problems in the country's rice supply.

"So, iyong supply ay tinitingnan naman po ng Department of Agriculture iyan para mapunan, iyong hindi tayo magkulang ng bigas (The Department of Agriculture is monitoring the supply to augment it and make sure we will not be lacking)," the official added. Guillen also assured that the DA is well-versed in how much rice the country needs to import this coming season.

The DA had earlier said that Typhoons Kristine and Leon damaged nearly P7 billion in agricultural production, and affected 171,080 farmers and fisherfolk. Meanwhile, the NIA administrator also said that the P29 rice being sold in "Kadiwa ng Pangulo" centers are continuously available for the eligible beneficiaries. "In fact, ang totoo niyan eh, dito sa NIA na lang ano, pinapakiusapan namin iyong mga katabi naming communities na huwag nang pumila dahil kung sino naman ang pupunta diyan at iyong qualified naman po sila, bibigyan sila lahat (the truth is that the NIA is asking our nearby communities not to line up anymore because as long as they are qualified, they will be given access to the rice)," he explained.

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<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/10/ph-to-delay-sugar-import>

MANILA BULLETIN:

PH Navy ship to transport 100 tons of relief aid to calamity-hit Batanes

BY MARTIN SADONGDONG

Nov 10, 2024 01:13 PM



BRP Davao del Sur (File photo courtesy of Office of Civil Defense)

Philippine Navy landing dock BRP Davao del Sur (LD 602) will sail to Batanes to deliver relief supplies for victims of recent calamities, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) announced Sunday, Nov. 10.

“The naval vessel is currently awaiting favorable weather conditions to set sail, ensuring a safe journey to the affected communities,” OCD Administrator, Undersecretary Ariel Nepomuceno said.

More than 100 tons of relief goods will be transported by BRP Davao del Sur including rice, food packs hygiene kits, and construction materials for the victims of Super Typhoon Leon.

Batanes was also affected when Severe Tropical Storm “Kristine” wreaked havoc last month, as well as the Typhoon Marce last week.

“As the President [Ferdinand Marcos Jr.] has assured, help is on the way—by land, air, or sea. We are here to ensure that the needs of our citizens are met swiftly and efficiently,” Nepomuceno stated.

Various government agencies and private organizations also contributed aid including the following:

- OCD-Cagayan Valley (Region 2): 11.75 tons of rice and family food packs;
- Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor): 8.60 tons of food and non-food packs;
- Department of Health (DOH): 8.20 tons of hygiene kits;
- Department of Agriculture (DA): 5.21 tons of rice and vegetable seeds;
- Department of Transportation (DOTr): 1.71 tons of assorted goods;
- Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT): communication equipment;
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR): 105.47 tons of assorted lumber;
- TV5 Alagang Kapatid Foundation: 12.30 tons of corrugated galvanized iron (GI) sheets; and
- GMA Kapuso Foundation: 52.35 tons of assorted relief packs

Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. commended the collective effort of the government agencies and private sector in alleviating the suffering of the calamity victims.

“Today, we reaffirm our commitment to delivering the most needed help to our fellow Filipinos. This mission is a testament to the strength of our collaboration across government agencies and the private sector. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to this vital effort, ensuring that no one is left behind during these challenging times,” he said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/10/ph-navy-ship-to-transport-100-tons-of-relief-aid-to-calamity-hit-batanes>

MANILA BULLETIN:

‘Marce’ kills 1; affects 261K people – NDRRMC

BY MARTIN SADONGDONG

Nov 10, 2024 12:04 PM

At least one person reportedly died due to Typhoon “Marce” while over 261,000 people were affected in three regions in Northern Luzon, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported Sunday, Nov. 10.

President Marcos has assured those affected by Typhoon Marce that the government will not leave them behind as he vowed to ensure the swift reconstruction of their damaged houses.

Details as to the identity of the lone casualty as well as location and circumstance of the incident have yet to be verified by the NDRRMC in its latest situational report.

The typhoon, which exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) on Friday, Nov. 8, affected 261,787 individuals (76,622) families in Ilocos Region (Region 1), Cagayan Valley (Region 2), and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

At present, there were 26,803 individuals who were staying in 230 evacuation centers.

One person was also missing while another one was injured, both recorded in Region 1.

Forty-two areas in Cagayan were still flooded while two sea vessels ran aground in Ilocos Norte. Due to strong waves and winds, container ship “MV Aries 1” hit shallow waters off Brgy. Victoria while landing craft tank “Panphil 8” ran aground off the nearby Brgy. Gaang – both in Currimaog town.

A rain-induced landslide was also noted in Brgy. Chanarian, Basco, Batanes, prompting immediate intervention from the local government as houses are located within the landslide-prone area. The NDRRMC said this has been the fourth time a landslide struck the area since Typhoon Julian.

A total of 29 road sections and 11 bridges were also deemed impassable to the public due to flooding, rockslide or landslide.

Marce also dealt a big blow to the country’s infrastructure sector, with loss amounting to P25,398,600. Damage to agriculture has yet to be confirmed as the affected regions were previously crushed by Typhoons Kristine and Leon.

160 dead due to ‘Kristine’, ‘Leon’

Meanwhile, the combined death toll due to Kristine and Leon further rose to 160, the NDRRMC said on Sunday.

Damage to infrastructure by the two consecutive weather disturbances reached a staggering P10.56 billion while agricultural loss was at P7 billion.

The NDRRMC said P1.5 billion worth of assistance has already been poured in for the victims of Kristine and Leon.

Marcos in Cagayan

Marcos led the distribution of government assistance to residents affected by the typhoon in Buguey, Cagayan on Sunday, Nov. 10.

In his speech, the President thanked the people for evacuating early as he recognized how difficult it must be for them to leave their homes behind.

“Alam namin mahirap para sa ibang tao na iwanan ang inyong bahay at iwanan ninyo ang pag-aari. Ngunit ito ang bubuhay sa inyo, ito ang sasalba sa inyo, eh (We know it’s hard for you to leave your houses and properties but this will save your lives),” he said.

With this, Marcos assured those affected that the government would immediately reconstruct houses damaged by Typhoon Marce in Cagayan.

“Ang dapat talaga nating tingnan ay ang reconstruction... yun ang tututukan natin (We need to focus on reconstruction),” he said.

Marcos vowed that the government would not abandon victims until they fully recovered from the typhoon’s effects. He said the aid provided by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) will continue.

Typhoon Marce made landfall in the vicinity of Santa Ana and later in Sanchez-Mira, Cagayan, on Nov. 7.

Wind signals raised

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) raised tropical cyclone wind signals over 27 areas in Luzon, including the northern part of Metro Manila, on Sunday, Nov. 10, in preparation for Severe Tropical Storm “Nika” (international name: Toraji).

In its 11 a.m. bulletin, PAGASA said the center of Nika was located 500 kilometers east of Infanta, Quezon.

The severe tropical storm has maximum sustained winds of 100 kilometers per hour (kph) near its center and gusts reaching 125 kph. It is moving westward at 30 kph over the Philippine Sea. If it continues on its current track, PAGASA said Nika may make landfall over Isabela or Aurora on Monday morning or early afternoon, Nov. 11.

“Regardless of the position of the landfall point, it must be emphasized that hazards may still be experienced in areas outside the landfall point or within the forecast confidence cone. The tropical cyclone will then traverse the landmass of mainland Northern Luzon and emerge over the West Philippine Sea tomorrow evening,” PAGASA added.

Wind warnings

PAGASA said Nika will be classified as a typhoon once its maximum wind speed reaches between 118 and 184 kph. Therefore, the highest wind warning that may be issued during its passage is Signal No. 4.

As of late Sunday morning, Signal No. 2 has been raised over the northern and central portions of Aurora (Dilasag, Casiguran, Dinalungan, Dipaculao, Maria Aurora, Baler), Isabela, Quirino, southern portion of Cagayan (Solana, Iguig, Peñablanca, Tuguegarao City, Enrile), Nueva Vizcaya, Kalinga, Mountain Province, and Ifugao.

Meanwhile, Signal No. 1 is in up over the rest of Cagayan (including Babuyan Islands), Apayao, Abra, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, eastern and central portions of Pangasinan (San Nicolas, Tayug, Natividad, San Quintin, Umingan, Basista, Villasis, Malasiqui, San Fabian, Urbiztondo, Bautista, Mangaldan, Mapandan, Rosales, Dagupan City, Binalonan, Aguilar, Alcala, San Manuel, Asingan, Santo Tomas, Pozorrubio, Santa Maria, City of Urduyayon, Laoac, Mangatarem, San Carlos City, Manaoag, Binmaley, San Jacinto, Bayambang, Calasiao, Santa Barbara, Balungao, Sison, Lingayen, Bugallon, Labrador), La Union, Benguet, the rest of Aurora, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Bulacan, northern portion of Metro Manila (Navotas, Valenzuela, Malabon, Caloocan, Marikina, Pasig, Quezon City), Rizal, northeastern portion of Laguna (Santa Maria, Mabitac, Pakil, Pangil, Famy, Siniloan, Paete, Kalayaan, Cavinti, Lumban, Luisiana), eastern portion of Quezon (Calauag, Guinayangan, Tagkawayan, Pitogo, San Andres, Buenavista, San Francisco, Pagbilao, Infanta, Lopez, Catanauan, Mulanay, Unisan, General Luna, Plaridel, Quezon, Alabat, Sampaloc, Padre Burgos, Macalelon,

Mauban, Perez, Agdangan, Gumaca, Atimonan, Real, San Narciso, General Nakar, Lucban, City of Tayabas, Lucena City, including Pollilo Islands), Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, and Albay (Malinao, Tiwi, Bacacay, City of Tabaco, Malilipot, Rapu-Rapu).

Rainfall outlook

PAGASA warned of widespread and severe flooding and landslides due to intense, torrential rains (over 200 millimeters) in Cagayan, Isabela, Apayao, and Aurora from Monday noon to Tuesday noon, Nov. 12.

Heavy to intense rainfall (100 to 200 millimeters) may also affect Kalinga, Mountain Province, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, Ifugao, and Abra.

Meanwhile, moderate to heavy rainfall (50 to 100 millimeters) may prevail over Tarlac, Nueva Vizcaya, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, Benguet, Ilocos Norte, and Ilocos Sur.

Another potential cyclone

Moreover, Castañeda said PAGASA is closely monitoring the low-pressure area (LPA) outside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) for its potential development into another tropical cyclone.

The LPA was located 2,365 km east of northeastern Mindanao on Sunday morning.

There is a high chance that the LPA will develop into a tropical depression within the next 24 hours and could enter PAR by early Tuesday, Castañeda said.

Although the LPA is currently moving towards Cagayan Valley, its exact track remains uncertain, she added.

P80-million aid

During his visit, President Marcos handed over P10 million each to the municipalities of Aparri, Buguey, Sanchez-Mira, Santa Teresita, Baggao, Gattaran, Gonzaga, and Santa Ana. The funds were received by their respective local chief executives.

He also witnessed the distribution of assistance from different government agencies—the DSWD, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The DSWD distributed 1,800 food packs; the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), 200 packs of five-kilogram rice and 20 boxes of sardines; and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), 1,000 packs of 10kg rice.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) handed over P866.3 million in various interventions to farmers composed of hybrid rice seeds, fertilizer discounts, vegetable seeds, native chickens, and ducks.

The NDRRMC reported that as of Saturday, Nov. 9, a total of 326,137 Family Food Packs and P130,769,647.70 in Food and Non-Food Items (FNIs) at DSWD Field Offices I and II are available for augmentation and relief assistance.

100 tons of relief aid to calamity-hit Batanes

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<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/10/marce-kills-1-affects-261-k-people-ndrrmc>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Marcos vows swift rehab of homes damaged by ‘Marce,’ distributes aid to Cagayan LGUs

BY ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

Nov 10, 2024 11:44 AM

AT A GLANCE

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President Ferdinand ‘Bongbong’ Marcos Jr. (RTVM Screenshot)

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Typhoon Marce made landfall in the vicinity of Santa Ana and later in Sanchez-Mira, Cagayan, on Nov. 7.

It exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) on Nov. 8, with Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 4 having been the highest warning level issued during its onslaught.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported that Typhoon Marce affected a total of 15,518 families in Cagayan, 6,395 of them are sheltered at evacuation centers. More than 3,000 families are staying outside the evacuation centers.

Five municipalities experienced flooding in Cagayan. Nineteen Cagayan municipalities are currently experiencing power interruption, according to NDRRMC. Two bridges and a road are impassable as of Saturday.

Cagayan officials have asked the national government to augment the air assets being used for assessment and transportation of logistics to isolated areas. They also require 30,000 boxes of Family Food Packs and help to restore electricity in Northern Cagayan municipalities.

They need construction materials for houses damaged.

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https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/10/marcos-vows-swift-rehab-marce#google_vignette

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Lift ban on Golden Rice, High Court urged

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

November 10, 2024 | 12:00am



PhilRice said it filed a petition for review on certiorari with a request for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction before the High Court to challenge the Court of Appeals' decision on the Writ of Kalikasan case against Golden Rice.

BusinessWorld / IRRI

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) has asked the Supreme Court to reverse the appellate court's decision which halted the commercial propagation of Golden Rice in the country.

PhilRice said it filed a petition for review on certiorari with a request for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction before the High Court to challenge the Court of Appeals' decision on the Writ of Kalikasan case against Golden Rice.

“In its petition, PhilRice appeals to the Supreme Court for the reversal of the CA rulings and for the recall of the Writ of Kalikasan,” the attached agency of the Department of Agriculture (DA) said recently.

In April, the CA granted a writ of kalikasan to the Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad Agrikultura, Greenpeace Southeast Asia-Philippines and other environmental groups, citing potential risks of the Golden Rice and Bt talong to the environment and public health.

A writ of kalikasan is a legal remedy that safeguards people from environmental hazards that threaten life, health or property across two or more municipalities.

The CA issued a cease and desist order and directed the University of the Philippines-Los Baños and the Philippine Rice Research Institute to stop the commercial propagation of the two genetically modified crops.

Citing a recent study, PhilRice pointed out that farmers and even consumers are “willing to accept and consume” Golden Rice, which is locally branded as Malusog Rice.

The study titled Stakeholders Willing to Accept and Consume Beta Carotene-enriched Rice: Findings from the Pilot-Scale Deployment of Malusog Rice showed that Malusog Rice provided 30 to 50 percent of the estimated average Vitamin A requirement.

The same study indicated that households in Quirino and Agusan del Sur recorded a 100 percent acceptability score for Malusog Rice while other provinces such as Catanduanes, Antique, Samar and Lanao del Norte posted acceptance rates between 97 and 99 percent, PhilRice added.

Malusog Rice aims to address the country’s Vitamin A deficiency problems while providing farmers with comparable yields to ensure their profitability, PhilRice said.

In 2023, PhilRice expanded the cultivation of Malusog Rice to 117 hectares across 18 provinces with average yields ranging between 3.2 and 4.9 metric tons per hectare.

“Production cost assessments during the 2022 and 2023 cropping seasons further showed that Malusog Rice’s production costs at P12.07 to P12.15 per kilo are on par with conventional rice varieties,” it said.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/11/10/2398904/lift-ban-golden-rice-high-court-urged>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Corn, cassava self sufficiency rate to be boosted by P5.3 billion program

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

November 10, 2024 | 12:00am



Composite photo of harvested corn and cassava.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) targets to make the country’s self sufficiency in corn and cassava hit 81 percent next year on the back of a P5.3 billion program aimed at improving domestic yield.

The DA said it has a proposed allocation of P5.31 billion for its national corn program next year that would distribute high-quality planting materials, fertilizers, training, postharvest machinery and small-scale irrigation projects to farmers.

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, according to the DA.

“Next year, the Department is targeting the local production of at least 81 percent of total demand,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said yesterday.

Tiu Laurel said the DA plans to increase yields to 5.17 metric tons per hectare for yellow corn, 2.29 metric tons per hectare for white corn and 11.73 metric tons per hectare for cassava.

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

The agriculture chief emphasized that corn and cassava are relevant commodities for the country’s food security as they are both used in food and feed needs.

Tiu Laurel added that the DA launched the Corn Production Enhancement Project to boost corn productivity, increase income and enhance national corn sufficiency by providing quality seeds and fertilizers to farmers.

“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,” he said.

The DA in partnership with the Philippine Maize Federation Inc. (Philmaize) recently held a corn congress to discuss the state of the industry particularly the problems ailing domestic production.

“Hundreds of corn growers and stakeholders came together to develop concrete, comprehensive, and inclusive plans aimed to address various challenges facing the corn industry, such as low productivity, low corn prices, limited access to modern farming technologies, and insufficient post-harvest handling and storage infrastructure,” the DA said.

During the event, Artemio Salazar, vice chair of Philmaize and chair of the White Corn Technical Committee, formally turned over to DA the program documents related to the crafting of the Philippine White Corn Industry Roadmap 2024-2029, which will serve as a guide for the sector, the DA said.

“This roadmap aims to promote white corn consumption and increase its supply in the market simultaneously,” it added.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/11/10/2398915/corn-cassava-self-sufficiency-rate-be-boosted-p53-billion-program>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Palace allows one-time rice aid to uniformed personnel

[Alexis Romero](#) - The Philippine Star

November 10, 2024 | 12:00am



Individuals line up for affordable rice sold at P29 per kilo at the Kadiwa store inside the National Irrigation Administration Office in Quezon City on July 5, 2024.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos has authorized the one-time grant of rice assistance to all members of the military and other uniformed services, citing their key roles in maintaining peace and public safety.

The grant covers the military personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the uniformed personnel of the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Philippine Public Safety College, Bureau of Corrections, Philippine Coast Guard and National Mapping and Resource

Information Authority, according to Administrative Order no. 26 signed by Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin by the authority of Marcos last Nov. 7.

Each beneficiary will get 25 kilos of rice provided they are in active service as of Nov. 30 this year. The distribution of rice to authorized representatives of the beneficiaries will be held from December this year to March 2025 at designated National Food Authority (NFA) warehouses based on a schedule set by the grains agency.

The one-time rice assistance will be sourced from local and participating farmers of the agriculture department's Kadiwa program. Kadiwa aims to help farmers and small businesses sell their goods and to provide consumers access to lower-priced products.

“The administration recognizes the vital role of MUPs (military and uniformed personnel) in providing internal and external security, promoting peace and order and ensuring public safety through the implementation of various programs and initiatives,” the order read.

According to the order, the agriculture and budget departments recommended the giving of rice assistance to soldiers and other uniformed personnel to recognize their invaluable contributions to the country, help them cope with the effects of current socio-economic challenges and to provide economic opportunities to those in the agriculture sector.

The funding requirement for the rice assistance will be sourced from the contingent fund under the 2024 budget, subject to compliance with relevant laws, rules and regulations.

The agriculture and budget departments, in consultation with the NFA, are expected to come up with guidelines on the rice distribution within 15 days from the effectivity of the order.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/10/2398967/palace-allows-one-time-rice-aid-uniformed-personnel>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA: No decision on sugar importation until after May

By: [Carla Gomez](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

Inquirer Visayas / 05:48 PM November 10, 2024



HOE, SOW, GROW. Farmers of Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac hoe a field before sowing sugarcane. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

BACOLOD CITY — The Department of Agriculture has decided to delay its decision on sugar importation until mid-2025 to have a clearer understanding of domestic supply.

The decision was reached during a meeting between Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr., Sugar Regulatory Authority Administrator Pablo Luis Azcona, Sugar Board Member Dave Sanson, and Andre Corro on Thursday, Nov. 7.

Laurel said there is no immediate need for additional imports as the domestic supply of raw and refined sugar remains stable and sufficient to meet projected needs.

“Given the current situation, Administrator Azcona and I agreed that a decision on sugar importation could be delayed until after May, when the current harvest season ends,” he added.

Azcona explained on Sunday, Nov. 10 that the current harvest season started slowly, with total cane volume reaching only a third of the amount harvested around the same period in the last crop year.

He attributed this to lower sugar content per ton of cane due to El Niño.

“Our supply for both raw and refined sugar is stable and we are just beginning our harvest season, so Secretary Laurel and I agree that there will be no sugar imports until after harvest sometime in May or June,” Azcona said.

“Farmers had to delay their harvests to allow the cane to mature further and increase sugar content,” he added.

The prolonged dry spells brought by El Niño resulted in the cane being physiologically immature, resulting in a 16% lower sugar content per ton of cane, constraining sugar output despite an increase in planting areas.

Azcona said SRA data show the area planted to sugar cane this year increased slightly to 389,461 hectares, up from 388,378 hectares the previous crop year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture forecasts a 3.6% decline in Philippine raw sugar production for the current crop year. The current crop year ends in August next year.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2003217/da-no-decision-on-sugar-importation-until-after-may>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Marcos distributes P80M financial assistance to Marce-hit Cagayan

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 12:19 PM November 10, 2024



(Photo screen grab from RTVM Facebook Live)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has personally visited families affected by Typhoon Marce (international name: Yinxing) in Buguey, Cagayan.

He also distributed P80 million in financial assistance to eight areas in the province.

In a Facebook Live, Marcos was seen handing out P10 million cash assistance to residents of Buruey, Aparri, Sanchez-Mira, Santa Teresita, Baggao, Gattaran, Gonzaga and Santa Ana.

The president was accompanied by his sons William Vincent Araneta Marcos and Joseph Simon Araneta Marcos.

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) chief Rex Gatchalian and Department of Education Secretary Sonny Angara were also on hand, among others.

Marcos led the distribution of DSWD's 1,500 food packs and P866.3 million worth of agricultural aid from the Department of Agriculture.

"These interventions include hybrid rice seeds, fertilizer discounts and poultry assistance, with native chickens and ducks, to help farmers restart agriculture activities," Marcos' office said in a Facebook post.

Moreover, the provincial government of Cagayan has also rolled out 300 food packs to the affected communities.

Marce's impact reportedly killed one person, according to the latest report from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Aside from this, the NDRRMC reported that the tally of the people affected by the typhoon likewise rose to 261,787 individuals or 76,622 families.

Marce brought floods to 42 areas in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley).

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2003130/marcos-distributes-p80m-financial-assistance-to-marce-hit-cagayan>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

NFA raises palay purchases by over 400% in September

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 08:21 AM November 10, 2024



Palay (unmilled rice) —INQUIRER file photo

The National Food Authority (NFA) increased its palay (unmilled rice) purchases by more than 400 percent in September, although it fell short of its target procurement due to good harvest and competitive buying prices.

In its accomplishment report, the NFA said it purchased 768,359 bags (38,417 metric tons) of palay in September, an increment of 439.6 percent from 142,388 bags (7,119.4 MT) in the same period a year ago.

“Increase in the procurement as compared to the preceding months can be attributed to the good harvest of the main cropping season and the implementation of the

Council-approved Price Range Scheme (Prices) for palay procurement activity,” the NFA said.

Under this scheme, the buying price of palay per province is set at a competitive price that is at par or above the prevailing ex-farm price. It is adjusted weekly.

Earlier, the NFA adjusted the buying price of palay, now at P23 to P25 per kilogram, to help reduce the retail price of the staple food while fulfilling its mandate.

Despite the significant increase, the grains agency attained 43 percent of its target to buy 1.79 million bags (89,336 MT) of palay from local farmers.

The grains agency distributed 39,867 bags (1,993 MT) of milled rice, representing 13.6 percent of the target of 292,975 bags (14,648 MT).

Of these, 26,840.5 bags were allotted to government agencies and rice requirements of local government units under Executive Order No. 51 signed in 1998.

Per the EO, the NFA is the primary source of rice for government entities that either grant rice as a form of incentive or benefit to their employees or use rice in connection with their functions.

Some 13,026.5 bags were given to the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Office of Civil Defense, legislators and LGUs for relief operations or calamity response.

“Sales to other government agencies for non-calamity purposes were calibrated due to low inventory level of rice stocks, hence low distribution accomplishment,” it added.

As of end-September, the NFA has a total expected milled rice inventory of 3,448,747 bags (172,437 MT).

The NFA’s stockpile accounts for only 9.1 percent of the nationwide rice inventory.

Last month, the NFA secured another P9 billion from the Department of Budget and Management to build its buffer stocks for calamity efforts, which would be released in equal installments over the last three months of the year.

It earlier disclosed plans to procure 6.4 million bags to 8.7 million bags of palay for the wet season as part of its mandate under the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL).

The NFA had said the additional funding could help support farmers during the wet season when palay prices typically decline because of increased harvests and limited drying facilities.

<https://business.inquirer.net/489289/nfa-raises-palay-purchases-by-over-400-in-september>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Security forces get rice grant

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:34 AM November 10, 2024



ENOUGH RICE A worker arranges sacks of newly milled rice in Nueva Ecija on Nov. 2. —Grig C. Montegrando

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos has ordered a grant of 25 kilos of rice to military and uniformed personnel for 2024 in recognition of their contributions and to help them cope with rising costs of goods and services.

Administrative Order No. 26 said the one-time grant will be sourced from local farmers who are part of the Department of Agriculture's (DA) Kadiwa ni ANI at Kita or Kadiwa program.

The President authorized the rice assistance upon the recommendation of the DA and the Department of Budget and Management.

In AO 26 dated Nov. 7, the rice grant will be given to uniformed personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Philippine Public Safety College, Bureau of Corrections, Philippine Coast Guard and the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority.

The military and uniformed personnel should be in active service as of Nov. 30, 2024, to qualify for the rice assistance.

The 25 kilos of rice will be distributed from December 2024 to March 2025 in designated warehouses of the National Food Authority.

The budget for the rice assistance will be charged against the contingent fund of the 2024 national budget. —*Julie M. Aurelio*

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2003024/security-forces-get-rice-grant>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Storm-weakened rice production expected to drive PHL imports in 2025

November 10, 2024 | 8:25 pm



PHILSTAR FILE PHOTO

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

PHILIPPINE rice imports in 2025 will be driven by the expected decline in the production of palay (unmilled rice) this year, analysts said.

“We will have to import more next year to cover up the drop in production this year. Aside from this, demand for rice will increase because of the annual growth in the population,” Federation of Free Farmers national manager Raul Q. Montemayor said via Viber.

In its latest Grain: World Markets and Trade Report, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) said the Philippines is projected to import about 5.1 million metric tons (MMT) in 2025.

The USDA’s new forecast represents a 200,000 MT upgrade from the estimate of 4.9 MMT issued in October. The projection for next year is slightly higher compared to the 5 MMT forecast for 2024.

The Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) said palay production will likely decline 3.24% to a four year low of 19.41 MMT in 2024. This is equivalent to about 12.69 MMT of milled rice.

In 2023, actual palay output was 20.06 MMT. The new 2024 forecast also represents a downgrade from the 20.1 MMT estimate the DA issued in August.

The USDA said rice consumption in the Philippines is growing in line with population growth.

“The Philippines is importing record amounts due to a combination of population growth and reduced import tariffs. Thus far in 2024, the Philippines relied on Vietnam for more than 80% of imports,” the USDA said.

In June, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. signed Executive Order (EO) No. 62 which lowered the tariff on imported rice until 2028 to 15% from 35%. EO 62 was meant to tame rice prices and plug gaps in rice production.

The USDA is projecting domestic rice production of 12.3 MMT in milled rice equivalent for 2025. This slightly lower than the 12.33 MMT estimated for this year.

As of the third quarter, palay production declined by 12.4% to 3.33 MMT from 3.8 MMT the same period last year, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed.

Mr. Montemayor said that the rice imported this year would partially offset any anticipated drop in rice production.

“End-of-year stock levels will most probably be lower than normal, which means we will have to import more next year barring any significant increase in local production,” Mr. Montemayor added.

The DA said that it is aiming for a national rice inventory of 3.83 MMT by the end of the year. This is equivalent to about 100 days’ demand.

The national rice inventory rose 6.8% year on year to 1.66 MMT in September, according to the PSA.

Former Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar said rice imports will likely remain at around 4 MMT next year, but production remains threatened by weather events.

“The challenges continue like erratic weather events like typhoons and flooding as well as low total factor productivity,” Mr. Dar said in a text message.

The Philippines experiences about 20 tropical cyclones each year. The government weather agency, known as PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration), has logged about 14 tropical cyclones entering the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), with about two expected to enter PAR this month.

Earlier in the year the Philippines faced dry conditions during El Niño, leading to droughts and dry spells in various regions.

The Philippines is also set to experience La Niña, which heightens the likelihood of tropical cyclones, low-pressure areas, and the Intertropical Convergence Zone. La Niña also intensifies the Southwest Monsoon.

PAGASA estimated a 71% chance of La Niña occurring between September and November, likely persisting until the first quarter of 2025.

“The government must intensify its efforts to promote science and technology-based solutions and measures to boost productivity and increase income of farmers,” Mr. Dar said.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/11/10/633887/storm-weakened-rice-production-expected-to-drive-phl-imports-in-2025/>

REMATE:

Presyo ng pagkain sa mundo pumalo sa 18-month high noong Oktubre

November 10, 2024 11:28



MANILA, Philippines – Umarangkada sa 18-month high ang pandaigdigang presyo ng mga pagkain noong Oktubre, o pagtaas ng 2% mula Setyembre, ayon sa UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) nitong Biyernes, Nobyembre 8.

Lahat ng major food commodities, maliban sa karne, ay nakapagtala ng price increase noong Oktubre. Pinakamalaki rito ang pagtaas sa vegetable oils sa 7.3%.

Kumpara sa historical levels, ang Food Price Index ng FAO noong Oktubre ay 5.5 percent na mas mataas kumpara noong nakaraang taon, bagamat nananatiling mababa ng 20.5 percent sa peak level noong Marso 2022.

Tumaas ang cereal prices ng 0.8 percent mula Setyembre, ngunit 8.3 percent na mas mababa kumpara noong Oktubre 2023.

Ang presyo ng vegetable oil ay tumaas ng 7.3 percent month-on-month noong Oktubre, o two-year high.

Ang dairy prices ay lumago rin ng 1.9 percent noong Oktubre, at tumaas ng 21.4 percent mula noong Oktubre 2023.

Habang ang presyo ng asukal ay tumaas ng 2.6 percent noong Oktubre, kumpara noong Setyembre. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/presyo-ng-pagkain-sa-mundo-pumalo-sa-18-month-high-noong-oktubre/>

REMATE:

One-time rice assistance sa MUP OKs kay PBBM

November 10, 2024 08:52



MANILA, Philippines – Nag-isyu si Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ng Administrative Order (AO) 26, na pumapayag sa one-time grant ng rice assistance sa lahat ng military and uniformed personnel (MUP) ngayong 2024.

Sa ilalim ng AO 26 na tintado ni Marcos noong Nobyembre 7, sinabi na ibibigay ang uniform quantity na 25 kilo ng bigas sa bawat MUP na nasa serbisyo hanggang nitong Nobyembre 30.

Ang one-time rice assistance ay kukunin mula sa local at participating farmers ng Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita o Kadiwa program ng Department of Agriculture (DA).

Samantala, ang distribusyon ng bigas sa authorized representatives ng MUPs ay gagawin mula Disyembre 2024 hanggang Marso 2025, o batay sa iskedyul na itinakda ng National Food Authority (NFA) sa designated warehouses.

Sakop ng AO 26 ang Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Jail and Management and Penology, Philippine Public Safety College, Bureau of Corrections, Philippine Coast Guard, at National Mapping and Resource Information Authority.

“The administration recognizes the vital role of MUPs in providing internal and external security, promoting peace and order, and ensuring public safety through the implementation of various programs and initiatives,” saad sa kautusan.

Inirekomenda ng DA at Department of Budget and Management (DBM) ang pagbibigay ng one-time rice assistance sa lahat ng MUPs para sa 2024 “in recognition of their invaluable contribution to the country, to assist them in coping with the effects of the current socio-economic challenges, and to likewise provide economic opportunities for those in the agriculture.”

Ang funding requirement para rito ay kukunin sa contingent fund sa ilalim ng Republic Act 11975 o General Appropriations Act para sa Fiscal Year 2024, subject to compliance with relevant laws, rules, and regulations. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/one-time-rice-assistance-sa-mup-oks-kay-pbbm/>

ABANTE:

Pag-import ng bigas ipaubaya sa gobyerno

Abante News

• November 10, 2024



Walang paggalaw pababa sa presyo ng imported rice sa merkado kaya itinulak ni House Deputy Majority Leader Rep. Erwin Tulfo na tanging ang Department of Agriculture (DA) na lang ang mag-angkat ng bigas mula sa ibang bansa.

“Binabaan na nga ng Pangulo ang taripa ng imported na bigas ng mga negosyante, pero ang presyo sa merkado nasa P50 to P60 pa rin ang kilo”, ayon kay Cong. Tulfo.

“Dont tell me walang saysay ang pagbaba ng taripa. So saan napupunta ang savings sa taripa? Dapat sa mga tao di ba?,” tanong ng mambabatas.

Aniya, mukhang ang nakikinabang lang ay yung mga importer, therefore kailangan nating kumilos na”.

Maghahain ng panukalang batas si Cong. Tulfo ngayong araw kasama sina Cong. Edvic Yap at Jocelyn Tulfo ng ACT-CIS Partylist, Benguet Rep. Eric Yap, at Quezon City Rep. Ralph

Tulfo na bigyan ng kapangyarihan ang DA na mag-import ng bigas para ibenta sa mga palengke.

Ayon sa panukalang batas, kung magkano nakuha ng DA ang bigas sa ibang bansa, ay sya na rin ang magiging katumbas na presyo sa ating merkado.

“Dahil bawal magbenta ang DA ng bigas, isasama natin sa panukala na ang mga interesadong rice retailers ay maari ng mag-apply bilang licensed kadiwa outlets sa DA”, paliwanag ni Tulfo.

“Akala natin bababa na ang presyo ng bigas pagtapyas ng taripa, yung pala walang epekto kasi ang profit o kita sa mga importer lang napupunta”, dagdag pa ni Tulfo.

Anang ACT-CIS Congressman, ”ngayon pag pumasok na rin ang DA na maaari na itong mag-import regularly, then may kakumpitensya na ang mga negosyante...entonces mapepwersya na silang ibaba ang presyo nila sa merkado”.

Ipinatitigil din sa panahon ng anihan ng palay, ang pagbibigay ng import permit ng bigas sa lahat para maprotektahan ang local manufactured rice at ang interes ng mga magsasaka.

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/11/10/pag-import-ng-bigas-ipaubaya-sa-gobyerno/>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Only DA should be allowed to import rice - Tulfo

By **Reina C. Tolentino**

November 10, 2024

MANILA, Philippines — House Deputy Majority Leader and ACT-CIS Partylist Rep. Erwin Tulfo said that only the Department of Agriculture (DA) should be allowed to import rice because the price of imported grain has not gone down.

"The President has reduced the tariff on imported rice but the market price is still at P50 to P60 per kilo," he said. "Don't tell me the lowering of tariff had no effect. Where did the savings from lower tariffs go? The people should benefit," he added.

Tulfo said officials should take action as it appeared that only the importers are benefitting from the lower tariff.

He said that he and fellow ACT-CIS Reps. Edvic Yap and Jocelyn Tulfo, Benguet Rep. Eric Yap, and Quezon City 2nd District Rep. Ralph Tulfo plan to file a bill which will empower the DA to import rice from other countries.

Under the proposal, the rice imported by the DA from other countries should be sold in the Philippines at the same price it was purchased.

"Because the DA is not allowed to sell rice, we will include in the measure a proposal to allow rice retailers to apply for a license to operate Kadiwa centers. Now, when the DA can already import regularly, then businessmen already have a competitor...so they will be forced to lower their prices," Tulfo said.

The proposed bill will also ban the DA from issuing import permits during the harvest season to protect local farmers.

https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/10/news/only-da-should-be-allowed-to-import-rice-tulfo/2001198?fbclid=IwY2xjawGePS9leHRuA2F1bQIxMAABHVFI_C_kWkXjovEkB1MT1YwjxoZ2UzMXwZELjugnBIBx6Wz1HarG_roirw_aem_qv6agk92sPormxMabCvXRg

THE MANILA TIMES:

Tiu Laurel's roadmaps of folly

SUNDAY STORIES

By Marlen Ronquillo

November 10, 2024

AFTER World War II ended, GI man Charles Shelledy opted out of military service, resettled in Sto. Tomas, Lubao, Pampanga, and married a local woman. At an area along the main highway and connected via gravel roads with at least four major rice-farming villages, the ex-GI built a modern rice mill with a giant warehouse capable of storing massive amounts of palay, or unmilled rice, that met the desired moisture content.

There was an existing giant rice mill less than a kilometer from where Shelledy built his, but he knew his data. The rice from those four villages near his mill was enough to feed the whole population of Lubao, with its more than 40 villages, and even two major rice mills less than a kilometer away from each other were not even enough to store and mill the palay in the immediate area. Shelledy was also aware of basic economics: proceeds from the sale of the darak (rice bran) and mata (mixture of rejected rice and rice bran) that rice farmers considered waste were enough to pay off the mill's yearly labor and operational costs. A modern rice mill was a cash cow, so to speak.

Children of farmers were then trained to work on the farm at a very early age and were fully aware of the realities of farming life. During the rainy-season harvests, these children were fully aware of one thing: only the retrofitted six-by-six trucks of Shelledy's mill and the rice mill owned by the Vitug-Manalansan clan — the facility was called Vima — were the only vehicles capable of traversing our potholed village road during that season to safely keep that season's harvest and mill rice when necessary.

Modern rice mills like what the ex-GI built were among the most valuable institutions in rice-farming towns then, Along with the mini

rice mills, called "kiskisan," that were present in every farming village but lagged in efficiency in comparison to the modern mills. That was true in all rice-farming areas across the country.

Those two rice mills are gone, mothballed in the previous century. The mini rice mills sputtered long after the closure of the two giant ones but are now detritus from a bygone era. There is no longer news about the blue-eyed Shelledys of Sto. Tomas, one of which, Charles Shelledy III, was a high school contemporary. I am tempted to use the tired but apt phrase "end of an era." But what is a rice-farming area without giant rice mills and the kiskisan? It is like a honkytonk town without the requisite bars.

The scarred and desolate agricultural landscape of my province is mostly of vanished and iconic institutions that thrived in an earlier era. If there were institutions more valuable and productive than the rice mills, those were the sugar mills, of which Pampanga had three: the Pampanga Sugar Development Co. (Pasudeco) in San Fernando, the Pampanga Sugar Mill in Floridablanca and the Sweet Crystal Mill in Planas, Porac. All three are gone, just like the Carebi sugar mill in Zambales. Western Central Luzon, which used to have four sugar mills, has to truck the marginal yield of its sugar farms to Central Azucarera de Tarlac. A mixed-used development owned by one of the country's real estate giants sits where the Pasudeco mill once stood.

What is an agricultural province like mine without the iconic institutions associated with rice and sugar farming, like the giant rice mills and the sugar mills with Arabian horses for sugar inspectors and mahogany-floored private clubs for the sugar planters? Across Pampanga and formerly thriving agricultural provinces, the tell-tale signs abound, and it says it is the end of an era. If there is any doubt about that, look at the mothballed sugar complex in Nasugbu, Batangas.

But don't tell that to billionaire Francsico Tiu Laurel, the clueless secretary of agriculture. With boundless energy and enthusiasm —

but with no grounding in reality and detached from the abject and objective conditions of the sector he oversees — he is giddily crafting supposed development roadmaps critical to the sector, starting with rice. Those who have read Barbara Tuchman call Tiu Laurel's proposed clueless roadmap for rice a "roadmap of folly."

What is a rice roadmap without iconic institutions like rice mills and kiskisan? What is a roadmap when the average age of a rice farmer is past 70? When an area's irrigation system, like the Upper Pampanga River Irrigation System has been ravaged by elements both natural and manmade? What is a rice roadmap in former thriving rice areas savaged by land conversion? When has the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' rediscounting window for agriculture loans been closed for good? I can go on and on with agriculture's broken and beyond-repair institutions.

Don't punch above your policy and intellectual weight, Mr. Secretary. Stick to what is possible: managing the country's rice imports to ensure the reign of greed in the importing, trading and retailing sector is reined in. This is the situation on the ground right now. Despite rice imports that may scale more than 4 million metric tons this year, which would make us the top rice importer in the world for three consecutive years, retail prices are still astronomically high. Get real, junk your nonsensical roadmaps.

https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/10/opinion/columns/tiu-laurels-roadmaps-of-folly/2001104?fbclid=IwY2xjawGePShleHRuA2F1bQIxMAABHbL31R5W-ESs_XXZt9YajGcwg07k6esJRS_50ppHHgC61AJb3ugw7ET9RQ_aem_I3u-g5s7WzHuWHbYxDYzjg

THE MANILA TIMES:

Global food prices hit 18-month high – FAO

By Agence France-Presse
November 10, 2024

PARIS — Global food prices rose in October to their highest level in 18 months, with a sharp increase in the cost of vegetable oil, the Food and Agriculture Organization said on Friday.

The FAO Food Price Index, which tracks monthly changes in international prices of a basket of food commodities, reached 127.4 points last month, a 2-percent increase from September.

It was the highest since April 2023 but still 20.5 percent lower than the peak reached in March 2022 following Russia's invasion of agricultural powerhouse Ukraine.

Vegetable oil prices increased by 7.3 percent in October, reaching a two-year high due to lower production.

Sugar prices rose 2.6 percent, dairy was up 2.5 percent and cereals gained 0.8 percent.

Meat was the only commodity to fall, down 0.3 percent from the previous month.

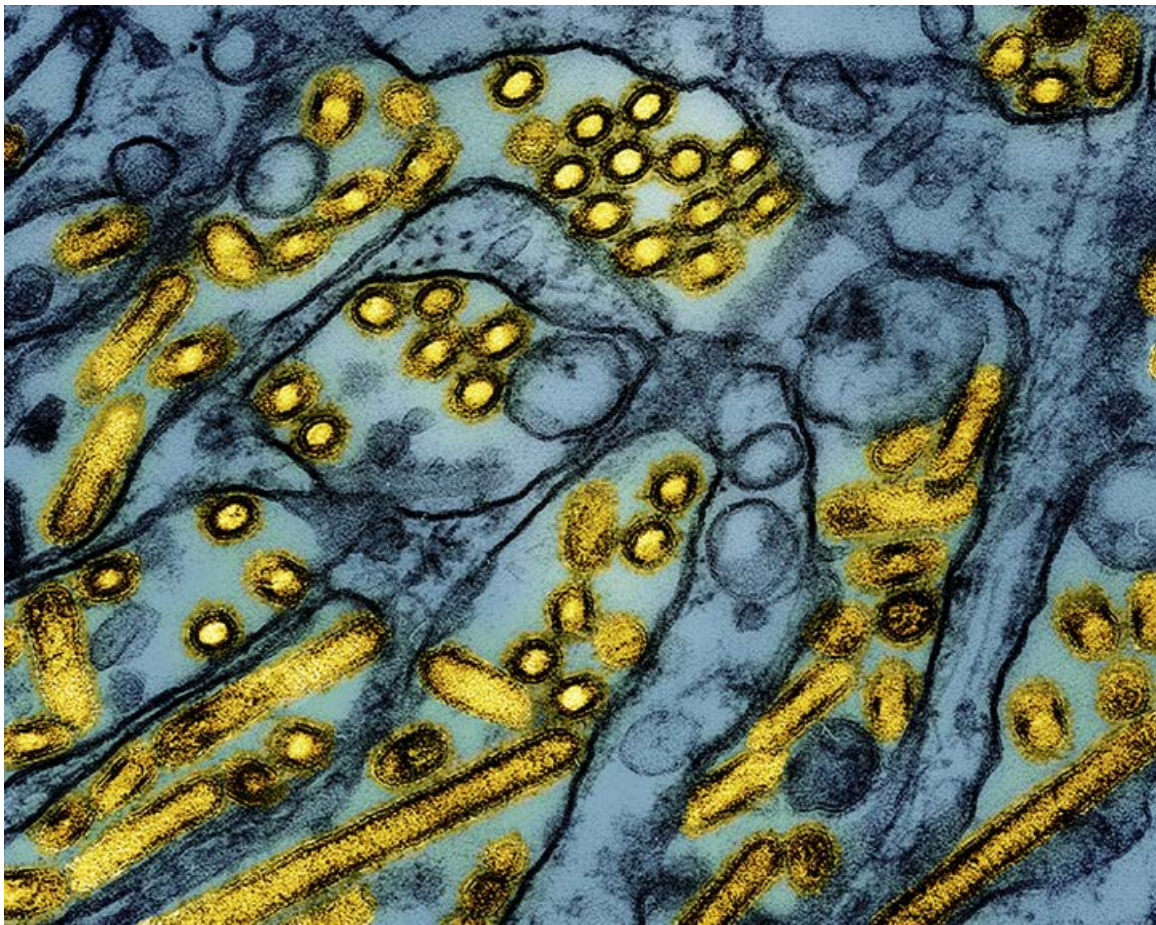
The FAO is an agency of the United Nations.

https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/10/business/top-business/global-food-prices-hit-18-month-high-fao/2001124?fbclid=IwY2xjawGePR9leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHbNP0hod_v6eS2lilfHIjFDe2Or9yoPQ1Iqbxmf4XdEYY_WSnhK5L4Tnvg_aem_LrNI5So2u-zYsEvN7OIH0Q

BUSINESS MIRROR:

CDC calls for expanded testing for bird flu

The Associated Press
November 10, 2024



This colorized electron microscope image released by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases on March 26, 2024, shows avian influenza A H5N1 virus particles (yellow), grown in Madin-Darby Canine Kidney (MDCK) epithelial cells (blue).

Federal health officials on Thursday called for more testing of employees on farms with bird flu after a new study showed that some dairy workers had signs of infection, even when they didn't report feeling sick.

Farmworkers in close contact with infected animals should be tested and offered treatment even if they show no symptoms, said Dr. Nirav Shah, principal director of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The new guidance comes after blood tests for 115 farmworkers in Michigan and Colorado showed that eight workers—or 7 percent—had antibodies that indicated previous infection with the virus known as Type A H5N1 influenza.

“The purpose of these actions is to keep workers safe, to limit the transmission of H5 to humans and to reduce the possibility of the virus changing,” Shah told reporters.

The CDC study provides the largest window to date into how the bird virus first detected in March in dairy cows may be spreading to people. It suggests that the virus has infected more humans than the 46 farmworkers identified in the US as of Thursday. Nearly all were in contact with infected dairy cows or infected poultry.

Outside experts said it’s notable that the study prompted the CDC to take new action. Previous recommendations called for testing and treating workers only when they had symptoms.

“This is a significant move towards the assessment that these H5N1 viruses are a greater risk than the CDC estimated before,” said Dr. Gregory Gray, an infectious disease researcher at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

Every additional infection in animals or humans gives the virus the chance to change in potentially dangerous ways, said Angela Rasmussen, a virus expert at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada.

“It shows yet again that we are not responding effectively to the H5N1 cattle outbreak in humans or animals and if we continue to let this virus spread and jump from species to species, our luck will eventually run out,” Rasmussen said in an email.

The CDC study included 45 workers in Michigan and 70 in Colorado tested between June and August. Of the eight workers with positive blood tests, four reported no symptoms. All eight cleaned milking parlors and none used respiratory protection such as face masks. Three said they used eye protection.

High levels of the virus have been found in the milk of infected cows, increasing the risk of exposure and infection, researchers said.

Researchers said that efforts to monitor dairy workers for illness have been hindered by several barriers including the reluctance of farm owners and farmworkers to allow testing.

Rasmussen and others have criticized the federal response to the outbreak as too slow and “lackluster.”

“These studies should have been performed months ago and should have been prioritized,” she said.

The virus has been confirmed in at least 446 cattle herds in 15 states. Last week, the Agriculture Department said a pig at an Oregon farm was confirmed to have bird flu, the first time the virus was detected in US swine.

Image credits: [CDC/NIAID via AP](#)

https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/10/cdc-calls-for-expanded-testing-for-bird-flu/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGePRZleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHbL31R5W-ESs_XXZt9YajGcwg07k6esJRS_50ppHHgC61AJb3ugw7ET9RO_aem_I3u-g5s7WzHuWHbYxDYzjg

ABANTE TONITE:

DA bibigyan ng werpa umangkat ng bigas

November 10, 2024

Maghahain ng panukalang batas si House Deputy Majority Leader Rep. Erwin katuwang sina Benguet Rep. Eric Yap, at Quezon City Rep. Ralph Tulfo para bigyan ng kapangyarihan ang Department of Agriculture na mag-import ng bigas para ibenta sa mga palengke.

Dagdag nito na hindj naman bumababa ang presyo ng imported rice sa merkado kaya marapat ani Tulfo na tanging ang DA na lang ang mag-angkat ng bigas mula sa ibang bansa.

“Binabaan na nga ng Pangulo ang taripa ng imported na bigas ng mga negosyante, pero ang presyo sa merkado nasa P50 to P60 pa rin ang kilo”, ayon kay Cong. Tulfo.

“Dont tell me walang saysay ang pagbaba ng taripa. So saan napupunta ang savings sa taripa? Dapat sa mga tao di ba?,” tanong ng mambabatas.

Aniya, mukhang ang nakikinabang lang ay yung mga importer, therefore kailangan nating kumilos na”.

Ayon sa panukalang batas, kung magkano nakuha ng DA ang bigas sa ibang bansa, ay sya na rin ang magiging katumbas na presyo sa ating merkado.

“Dahil bawal magbenta ang DA ng bigas, isasama natin sa panukala na ang mga interesadong rice retailers ay maari ng mag-apply bilang licensed kadiwa outlets sa DA”, paliwanag ni Tulfo.

“Akala natin bababa na ang presyo ng bigas pagtapyas ng taripa, yung pala walang epekto kasi ang profit o kita sa mga importer lang napupunta”, dagdag pa ni Tulfo.

Anang ACT-CIS Congressman, ”ngayon pag pumasok na rin ang DA na maaari na itong mag-import regularly, then may kakumpitensya na ang mga negosyante...entonces mapepwersya na silang ibaba ang presyo nila sa merkado”.

Nakasaad din sa naturang panukalang batas na kapag panahon ng anihan ng palay, itigil ng DA ang pagbibigay ng import permit ng bigas sa lahat para maprotektahan ang local manufactured rice at ang interes ng mga magsasaka.

https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/11/10/da-bibigyan-ng-werpa-umangkat-ng-bigas/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGePQVleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHcVOQSe-B45SgolrDH41bHuOo-NOIxFAwj0KVt1fKM5Q9QWgJILi_Uc5FA_aem_CBOGovsRpBrp-ijhipSTQg