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MANILA BULLETIN:

Palace assures enough calamity funds, pre-positioned assets for typhoons

BY [RAYMUND ANTONIO](#)

Nov 11, 2024 01:30 PM

President Marcos has assured that the government has enough calamity funds and pre-positioned goods for typhoons until the end of this year, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Secretary Cesar Chavez said on Monday, Nov. 11.



(MB file photo)

While calamity funds historically dry up by September to October because of the typhoon season, the official cited the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) in an ambush interview as having confirmed that the government now has sources from which they can draw funds.

“Sa budget ina-aasure tayo ng DBM may pondo tayo, kung noong una nababawasan yan (In terms of budget, the DBM assured as that we have funds, although it got reduced at first). Historically as early as October sometimes September, ‘yung calamity fund ng national at ng mga local nauubos na sya, pero laging may pagkukunan ng pondo ang gobyerno (the national’s and local’s calamity funds get depleted, but the government always has something to draw these funds from),” he explained.

Chavez added that the Chief Executive “assured us that we have enough funds for the next calamities until the end of December.”

On Sunday, Nov. 10, the President personally delivered about P80 million worth in financial assistance to eight areas in Buguey, Cagayan, which was badly hit by Typhoon Marce (international name: Yinxing).

Marcos also led the distribution of Department of Social Welfare and Development’s (DSWD) 1,500 food packs and P866.3 million worth of agricultural aid from the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported that “Marce” killed one person and affected 261,787 individuals or 76,622 families.

Meanwhile, Chavez also disclosed Marcos’ instructions for government agencies to ensure the pre-positioning of goods for immediate distribution to typhoon-affected communities.

The President’s directive will cover government agencies—the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and DPWH—and private contractors, including their logistical assets like trucks and machineries.

“May instruction sya sa DOTr, may instruction sya sa DPWH and attached agencies of DOTr and DPWH, ‘yung mga trucks ng mga contractors na may kontrata sa national government dapat katulong na sa pre-positioning (He has instructions to the DOTr, to the DPWH, and attached agencies of DOTr and DPWH, that the trucks of their contractors who have contracts with the national government should help in the pre-positioning),” the PCO secretary said.

The impact of Marce on the country came just after Typhoon Kristine and Leon battered the Bicol region and many parts of Luzon and the National Capital Region (NCR).

The two typhoons damaged P5.75 billion in the agriculture sector and killed 160 people, affecting P9.6 million.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/11/palace-assures-enough-calamity-funds-pre-positioned-assets>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Government sets P1 billion spending to boost seaweed industry

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

November 12, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) will spend P1.06 billion next year to boost the domestic seaweed industry and hike the export of one of the country's prized commodities.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said BFAR, an attached bureau of the Department of Agriculture (DA), would use the budget for its Enhanced Philippine Seaweed Development Program that aligns with the DA's overall goal of developing the local aquaculture sector.

Tiu Laurel said BFAR has already identified at least 64,000 hectares for the expansion of seaweed farming in the country that could increase annual output by "more or less" 50 percent.

"This represents a low-hanging fruit that could create thousands of jobs and substantially boost the country's foreign exchange earnings," he said yesterday.

BFAR OIC Isidro Velayo Jr. said half of the proposed budget next year would be allocated for the distribution of seaweed farm implements, establishment of 109 new nurseries and maintenance of 24 existing seaweed culture areas.

"We will also construct eight warehouses, 34 mechanical dryers and 80 seaweed food carts to be distributed across the country," he said.

BFAR would purchase two bioreactors worth P10 million each that are expected to produce 4,100 metric tons of propagules or seaweed planting materials next year, according to the DA.

These propagules would be sufficient to cultivate seaweed across 410 hectares and yield an estimated 102.5 million kilograms of fresh seaweed, valued at approximately P850 million at P58.00 per kilo, Velayo said.

BFAR also noted that the province of Tawi-Tawi has 20,000 hectares of potential seaweed farming areas in addition to the existing 62,000 hectares seaweed farms.

Furthermore, potential farming areas of Southwestern Luzon and the Zamboanga Peninsula cover 12,736 hectares and 16,845 hectares, respectively, according to the DA.

The Philippines produced 1.626 million metric tons of fresh seaweed last year worth P12.7 billion.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/11/12/2399388/government-sets-p1-billion-spending-boost-seaweed-industry>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

P2.2 million smuggled sugar seized in Zamboanga

Roel Pareño - The Philippine Star

November 12, 2024 | 12:00am

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines – Up to 900 sacks of suspected smuggled refined sugar worth about P2.2 million were seized at a private shipyard in this city at dawn yesterday.

Two truck drivers and two helpers were arrested during the operation conducted by the police Special Operations Unit-Regional Intelligence Division 9 at around 3:40 a.m. in Barangay Cawit, according to Lt. Col. Helen Galvez, spokesperson for the Zamboanga peninsula police.

Galvez said the operation initially resulted in the discovery of a truck loaded with 900 bags of smuggled sugar. She said during the investigation, more sacks of sugar bearing the same brand were discovered near the area, waiting to be loaded onto another 10-wheeler truck.

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) initially estimated the value of the smuggled sugar at P2.2 million. Police withheld the identities of the suspects so as not to compromise the investigation.

Galvez said the suspects would be charged with violation of Republic Act 10611 or the Food Safety Act of 2013 and RA 10845 or the Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act of 2016.

The seizure of the contraband came a week after authorities seized more than 100 bags of smuggled sugar in this city.

The BOC said the 100 bags of smuggled sugar could be the smugglers' way of "testing the trade" as demand is expected to rise during the holiday season.

Earlier, the Department of Agriculture announced that sugar importation is canceled until the middle of 2025 as domestic supply of both raw and refined sugar is enough and stable.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/11/12/2399442/p22-million-smuggled-sugar-seized-zamboanga>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

ASF cases declining – BAI

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

November 12, 2024 | 12:00am



The BAI yesterday said that as of Nov. 8, cases of ASF were recorded in six regions, 21 provinces and 106 municipalities.

AFP / File

MANILA, Philippines — Outbreaks of African swine fever continue to go down after only 467 barangays recorded ASF cases from the previous 534, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry.

The BAI yesterday said that as of Nov. 8, cases of ASF were recorded in six regions, 21 provinces and 106 municipalities.

A report released on Oct. 18 showed recorded cases in 10 regions, 25 provinces and 108 municipalities.

Outbreaks were recorded in 144 barangays in North Cotabato, 67 in Batangas, 55 in Camarines Sur, 46 in La Union, 29 in Abra, 28 in Cavite, 18 in Ilocos Sur, 17 in Ifugao, 14 in Kalinga, 12 in Quezon province and nine in Laguna.

Other outbreaks were recorded in Occidental Mindoro with six affected barangays; Catanduanes, five; Camarines Norte, Oriental Mindoro and Sorsogon, two each, and Sultan Kudarat and Rizal with one barangay each.

“At least 431 cities and municipalities were upgraded to pink or buffer zone from red or infected zone and 103 cities and municipalities to yellow or surveillance from pink zone,” the BAI said.

Arnel de Mesa, spokesman for the Department of Agriculture (DA), said the increase in the retail price of pork could be attributed to ASF outbreaks and high demand as the holidays are nearing.

De Mesa said hog and swine raisers have started to recover from the effects of ASF.

Based on the monitoring of the DA in Metro Manila markets, the retail price of pork shoulder or kasim ranged between P270 and P360 per kilo, and pork belly or liempo between P330 and P400 per kilo.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/11/12/2399446/asf-cases-declining-bai>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Sugar importation deferred ‘until after May’ 2025 – gov’t execs

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 08:52 AM November 11, 2024



INQUIRER.net stock images

The government will delay sugar importation “until after May” next year to thoroughly assess the country’s supply as existing stocks are sufficient to meet the demand for the sweetener.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. and Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) Administrator Pablo Luis Azcona agreed to defer its decision on sugar importation until mid-2025 to “gain a clearer understanding of domestic supply” after the conclusion of the current crop year’s harvest.

In a statement issued by the Department of Agriculture (DA) over the weekend, Tiu Laurel said there is no immediate need to import more sugar as the country has ample to meet projected needs.

ADVERTISING

“Our supply for both raw and refined sugar [is] stable and we are just beginning our harvest season, so [Sec. Tiu Laurel] and I agree to delay the decision on sugar imports until after harvest sometime in May,” according to Azcona.

“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,” Tiu Laurel said.

In the Philippines, the sugar crop year usually begins in September and ends in August of the following year.

Tiu Laurel and Azcona arrived at this decision as sugar farmers started the harvest season at a slower pace as the El Niño-induced dry spell severely affected their crop yields.

Azcona noted that total cane volume reached only one-third of the amount harvested around the same period in the last crop year which he attributed to lower sugar content per ton of cane.

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

Prolonged dry spells made sugarcanes “physiologically immature,” according to the SRA, with the sugar content per ton of cane decreasing by 16 percent. As a result, it slashed sugar output even if planting areas increased.

Per SRA data, the area planted for sugar cane this year rose slightly to 389,461 hectares from 388,378 hectares the previous crop year.

The SRA projected sugar production to hit 1.782 million metric tons for the crop year 2024-2025, owing to the anticipated negative effect of the El Niño phenomenon.

Similarly, the US Department of Agriculture pegged raw sugar production at 1.85 million MT for the marketing year 2025, slightly higher than the SRA's estimate, because of the expansion in area planted and improvements in weather conditions.

So far, the country produced 43,941 MT of raw sugar as of Oct. 13, declining by 79.83 percent from 217,815 MT in the same period last year, figures from the SRA showed.

Refined sugar output hit only 995.65 MT, plunging by 97.49 percent from 39,672.60 MT.

Sugar prices are cheaper in Metro Manila from a year ago. Refined sugar retailed from P74 to P90 per kilogram as of Nov. 7, lower than P80 to P110 per kg, based on the DA's price monitoring.

Brown sugar was priced from P70 to P90 per kg compared to P65 to P96 per kg.

<https://business.inquirer.net/489363/sugar-importation-deferred-until-after-may-2025-govt-execs>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Let's push renewable fertilizers

By: [Cielito F. Habito](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 04:55 AM November 12, 2024

**INQUIRER
OPINION**

“*Napapagod na ang lupa,*” seasoned farmers told us over two decades ago, as my Brain Trust Inc. colleague Dr. Roehl Briones and I surveyed rice farmers around the country. Our respondents consistently cited declining per hectare rice yields over time, even as they applied more chemical fertilizers year after year.

Cielito F. Habito
Columnist
NO FREE LUNCH

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER **INQUIRER PLUS**
Philippine Daily Inquirer Publications, E-reader and Tablet version.

“*Napapagod na ang lupa,*” seasoned farmers told us over two decades ago, as my Brain Trust Inc. colleague Dr. Roehl Briones and I surveyed rice farmers around the country. Our respondents consistently cited declining per hectare rice yields over time, even as they applied more chemical fertilizers year after year. Many got less than 50 sacks of palay per hectare, less than half of what was commonly achieved under the Masagana 99 program in the 1970s. It was interesting how they described their soils to be “tired” or “weary” to explain the phenomenon, but it reflects the wisdom of those who had spent the good part of their lives eking out a living from tilling the soil.

Indeed, the only logical explanation seemed to be that the land they were planting to rice year after year had been degraded through time. Scientists point to increased acidity resulting from persistent use of inorganic chemical fertilizers, which are produced from by-products of petroleum processing, including ammonia and sulfur. Chemical fertilizers make soils more acidic because they contain ammonium, which is converted to nitrate in the soil in a chemical process that releases hydrogen ions—and having more of that is what acidity is all about. Higher acidity in turn harms helpful soil microorganisms and reduce

their abundance and diversity, promotes growth of harmful microorganisms such as fungi and bacteria, and builds up mineral salts that compact the soil and reduces available water in it. In contrast, organic fertilizers reduce soil acidity over time. And apart from providing soil nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, they improve soil structure, retain more water, and increase helpful microorganisms in the soil, making the soil healthier and more fertile over time. Mother Nature does her work.

Many years ago, Dr. Mercedes U. Garcia of the University of the Philippines Los Baños National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (UPLB-Biotech) developed a natural fertilizer from bacteria taken from the roots of the common *talahib*. When inoculated into the soil, the bacteria convert nitrogen from the atmosphere into a form plants can readily absorb. The product, called Bio N, improves the plant's root system, boosts nutrient absorption, provides resistance to pests and diseases, and enhances soil conditions. One kilo of Bio N costing P500 can yield nitrogen equivalent to two bags of urea, the commonly used form of nitrogen fertilizer, which at current prices cost more than P1,500 per bag. Between P500 and P3,000, the choice should be a no-brainer.

It was over 20 years ago when the Department of Agriculture (DA) first adopted Bio N in a 2003 memorandum of agreement with UPLB-Biotech, for the latter to supply Bio N and concentrates to the fertilizer mixers of the DA and local government units. But UPLB-Biotech lacked production capacity, and less than 1 percent of the country's total biofertilizer needs were served all those years. The breakthrough only came early last year, when UPLB signed a licensing agreement with Agri-Specialist Inc., a Laguna-based agribusiness company founded by distinguished UPLB alumnus Dr. Mario M. Labadan, to commercialize and distribute Bio N nationwide. It took the drastic jump in fertilizer prices triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war, and Labadan's willingness to make a risky missionary investment, to finally bridge, in the case of Bio N, the all-too-common divide between research innovation and commercialization. Agri Specialist Inc. invested in state-of-the-art equipment to permit Bio N production at a scale that could provide for up to all 7.2 million hectares of rice and corn lands in the country.

The UPLB science community led by National Scientist Dr. Emil Q. Javier brokered that match, but also crucial is government buy-in by pushing for much wider use of this

homegrown “renewable fertilizer” under its Balanced Fertilization Strategy (BFS). The BFS provides for balancing the use of inorganic fertilizers with organic and bio fertilizers to reduce costs, rejuvenate degraded soils, and minimize vulnerability to fertilizer supply and price volatilities that the Russia-Ukraine war had heightened. It finds a parallel in government’s balanced energy mix approach under its long-term energy plan for 2023-2050, wherein renewable energy sources would provide for energy security, apart from cleaner energy. Scaling up adoption of Bio N use would also be in keeping with the Tatak Pinoy Act (Republic Act No. 11981) that mandates government to favor innovative Filipino products and services in their procurement. I’d like to see the DA put its money where its mouth is on BFS by fostering much wider use of renewable fertilizers like Bio N, which, by strengthening our fertilizer security, enhances our long term food security as well.

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<https://opinion.inquirer.net/178267/lets-push-renewable-fertilizers>

BUSINES WORLD:

Seaweed industry enhancements to get P1.06 billion in 2025 funding

November 11, 2024 | 9:36 pm



STOCK PHOTO | Image by [Laczko Istvan Stefan](#) from [Pixabay](#)

THE Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) said on Monday that it allocated P1.06 billion in 2025 on programs that will boost the seaweed industry.

In a statement, the BFAR said that the funding will support the Enhanced Philippine Seaweed Development Program.

BFAR officer in charge Director Isidro M. Velayo, Jr. said “around half” of the funding will procure seaweed farm implements for distribution, establish 109 new nurseries, and maintain 24 existing seaweed culture areas.

“We will also construct eight warehouses and procure 34 mechanical dryers and 80 seaweed food carts,” he added.

Mr. Velayo said P10 million will go towards procuring two bioreactors, which are expected to produce 4,100 metric tons (MT) of seaweed planting material.

The planting materials will be sufficient for seaweed cultivation over 410 hectares and produce an estimated 102,500 MT of fresh seaweed, valued at about P850 million assuming a price of P58 per kilogram.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. cited the significant growth potential for seaweed farming.

Mr. Laurel added that BFAR has identified 64,000 hectares as potential expansion areas to increase the industry's annual output by "more or less 50%."

"This represents the low-hanging fruit that could create thousands of jobs and substantially boost foreign exchange earnings," he said.

The BFAR said Tawi-Tawi province has 20,000 hectares of potential seaweed growing areas, in addition to the 62,000 hectares already in operation in the province.

Other potential growing areas are Southwestern Luzon (12,736 hectares) and Zamboanga Peninsula (16,845 hectares).

In 2023, seaweed production totaled 1.6 million MT, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. Seaweed is among the Philippines' top agricultural exports. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/11/11/634220/seaweed-industry-enhancements-to-get-p1-06-billion-in-2025-funding/>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Typhoon-affected farmers receive aid

By **Leander C. Domingo**

November 12, 2024

TUGUEGARAO CITY — The employees of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 2 (DA-RFO2), in partnership with the Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal (NVAT), mobilized on Monday its Oplan Tulong to distribute relief goods to typhoon-affected farmers in Abulug and Sanchez Mira towns.

DA-RFO2 Executive Director Rose Mary Aquino said the agency and their employee association continue to distribute relief goods including assorted groceries and rice, and items of assorted vegetables delivered by the NVAT from Bambang town in Nueva Vizcaya as part of their social responsibility program.

"We thank NVAT through manager Gilbert Cumila and officials for their in-kind support amounting to P152,107. This humane act from NVAT is a big help to our typhoon-affected residents in various areas," Aquino said.

She said the transportation of vegetables was provided by DA Nueva Vizcaya Experiment Station in Bagabag town in Nueva Vizcaya.

Earlier, Dr. Ferdinand Cortez of the DA Region 2 Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section said the DA-RFO2 distributed relief goods including five kilos of well milled rice, eggs and groceries to Marce-heavily hit farmers and fishers on Nov. 8 in Gonzaga and Santa Ana, and on November 9 in the towns of Buguey, Santa Teresita, Camalaniugan and Aparri.

Cortez said the continued distribution of relief goods in its Oplan Tulong is to help the severely stricken farmers in the province of Cagayan.

"This is on top of what the government will give. This is the pooled resources of the employees of DA-RFO2," Aquino added.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/12/regions/typhoon-affected-farmers-receive-aid/2001786>

THE MANILA TIMES:

The game changers in PH agriculture: Asian food hub and reliable power in our farms

By Arnel Casanova
November 12, 2024

WHEN I envisioned and planned Clark Green City (now called New Clark City) during my term as BCDA president and CEO, one of the key pillars of its development was the construction of an Asian food logistics hub like the Rungis Market in France. This is critical infrastructure for Filipino farmers to trade in the global market. I brought together the Rungis Market leadership and the BCDA team to replicate this Asian global food hub.

I brought that vision to different agriculture secretaries — Secretary Emmanuel Piñol and Secretary William Dar. To hasten commercial agricultural production, I proposed to Secretary Dar and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana (who eventually became the BCDA chairman) that we harness the massive agricultural potential of idle military lands in Fort Magsaysay in Luzon, Camp Peralta in Panay and Camp Kibaritan in Mindanao. With a combined area of almost 120,000 hectares, these idle military reservations could serve as regional agro-industrial ecozones in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao, with Clark Food Hub as the central trading platform in a "hub-and-spoke" model. To bring in the private sector, I contacted a visionary business leader, Mr. Manuel Pangilinan (MVP) of the Metro Pacific Group, to partner with the government on this venture through a PPP model. This could have been a game changer for our food security and the modernization of our agriculture. Given the capable leadership of the economic team of the Marcos Jr. administration, led by Secretary Frederick Go, the

special assistant to the President for investment and economic affairs, this can be done now.

One big hurdle, though, is the lack of reliable electricity in our rural areas.

Despite its potential, agricultural development in the country continues to lag. The lack of reliable electricity is a significant yet often overlooked factor contributing to this stagnation. As we face mounting challenges in food security, it is imperative to recognize the critical role that reliable electricity plays in the progress of Philippine agriculture.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reports that 25 percent of the Philippine labor force works in agriculture, highlighting the sector's role in rural livelihoods. However, despite contributing 9.3 percent to the GDP, many rural areas lack reliable electricity. While 97.4 percent of households nationwide have electricity, only 87 percent of rural households had access as of 2019, compared to nearly 100 percent in urban areas. This rural-urban electricity gap hinders agricultural modernization and access to new markets.

Reliable electricity is crucial for powering irrigation, cold storage, farm machinery, and post-harvest processing — key to boosting agricultural productivity, reducing spoilage, and helping farmers fulfill market demand. Yet, inadequate electricity in rural areas limits cold chain systems, causing 15-20 percent post-harvest losses, especially for perishable goods like fruits, vegetables and dairy. The Cold Chain Association of the Philippines (CCAP) reports that only 20 percent of produce benefits from cold storage, leaving 80 percent at risk of waste. This means that 80 percent of our agricultural production is at risk of spoilage and wastage. This lack of infrastructure limits farmers' ability to extend their products' shelf life and engage in higher-value markets, both domestically and internationally. It is no surprise that we see tomato farmers throwing away good tomatoes to waste when, during

harvest time, a surplus harvest becomes too costly to transport rather than sell. Cold storage could extend shelf life and increase market value without exposing products to the vulnerability of seasonal weather.

Agricultural value-added industries — such as food processing, packaging and production of biofuels — also require electricity to operate machinery and facilities. The Philippines' ability to process agricultural goods is far below its potential, partly due to a lack of electricity. Small-scale farmers and cooperatives can significantly boost their income by processing raw goods into higher-value products in areas where electricity is available. This potential is often unrealized due to an inconsistent power supply, which hampers smallholder farmers and food processors from scaling their operations and increasing their market competitiveness.

One promising solution is using off-grid solar technologies, which have already been deployed in over 1,000 rural areas. According to the World Bank, off-grid solar installations have improved agricultural productivity by powering irrigation systems, cold storage and small-scale food processing facilities. This can help break the cycle of underdevelopment and enable farmers to increase their yields, reduce waste and boost incomes.

The correlation between unreliable electricity and underdevelopment in agriculture is clear. The agricultural sector can modernize and achieve higher productivity with a reliable, affordable energy supply. Unreliability is undoubtedly a major barrier to narrowing economic inequality. Addressing this gap is not only a matter of improving infrastructure but also of justice.

The government must prioritize rural electrification (in terms of access, industrial capacity and reliability) as a central component of agricultural development. In addition to extending the national grid, investments in off-grid renewable energy solutions, such as solar and wind power,

should be accelerated. These technologies are particularly well-suited to the decentralized nature of rural areas and can provide a more cost-effective and sustainable solution for farmers. Furthermore, public-private partnerships should be leveraged to enhance cold storage infrastructure, provide better access to post-harvest facilities, and promote mechanization in farming.

Electricity is not just a luxury but a fundamental enabler of agricultural progress. In the Philippines, the lack of reliable electricity is an invisible barrier preventing the agriculture sector from achieving its full potential. By addressing this energy gap, the country can unlock the true power of its rural areas, empowering farmers, improving food security, and catalyzing economic growth. It is high time the government recognized the link between energy access and agricultural development and invested in the necessary infrastructure to ensure that all Filipinos, regardless of where they live, have the power to help them thrive. This means lighting their homes and, more importantly, powering industries and manufacturing in rural areas, which most electric cooperatives cannot provide.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/12/opinion/columns/the-game-changers-in-ph-agriculture-asian-food-hub-and-reliable-power-in-our-farms/2001720>

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:

Shellfish sa baybayin ng Bacoor at Pagbilao, nakitaan ng ‘diatoms’

Ludy Bermudo

November 12, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Kinumpirma ng mga mananaliksik mula sa Ateneo de Manila University Department of Biology at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak ang pagkakaroon ng dalawang species ng “Pseudo-nitzschia diatoms” sa katubigang bahagi ng Luzon, na magdudulot ng pagtatae, pagsusuka, pananakit ng tiyan at permanent short-term memory loss, batay sa ulat ng ABS-CBN online.

Sa ginawang pag-aaral mula sa sample ng tubig sa shellfish farm sa Bacoor Bay sa Cavite at Pagbilao Bay, sa Quezon, natukoy ang isang uri ng microscopic algae na diatoms ay may dalawang species na “P pungens” at “P brasiliiana”.

Ang P brasiliiana ay sa unang pagkakataon lamang nadiskubre sa Luzon. Ito ay nagpoprodyus ng lason o domoic acid.

Ang huling dokumentadong kaso ng amnesic shellfish poisoning ay noong 1987 sa Prince Edward Island, Canada kung saan apat na biktima ang namatay matapos kumain ng mga nakakalason na tahong.

Ayon sa Washington State Department of Health, ang lason na nagdudulot ng amnesic shellfish poisoning ay hindi nasisira sa pamamagitan ng pagluluto o pagyeyelo at walang panlunas para dito.

Gayunpaman, ang nakakalason na domoic acid ay maaaring maipon sa filter-feeding shellfish tulad ng mussels at clams sa panahon ng algal blooms o red tide kapag ang algae ay naging isang mas malaking mapagkukunan ng pagkain para sa shellfish.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2024/11/12/2399465/shellfish-sa-baybayin-ng-bacoor-pagbilao-nakitaan-ng-diatoms>

Presyo ng manok tumaas

Angie dela Cruz

November 12, 2024 | 12:00am



Ayon sa datos ng DA, umaabot na lamang sa P80 ang farm gate price ng kada kilo ng manok pero pagdating ng palengke ay umaabot na ito sa P220 kada kilo.

Philstar.com / Irra Lising

MANILA, Philippines — Tumaas ang presyo ng bawat kilo ng manok sa mga palengke batay sa ginawang monitoring ng Department of Agriculture (DA) kahit na naibaba ng mga may negosyo sa manukan ang farm gate price ng itlog at manok.

Ayon sa datos ng DA, umaabot na lamang sa P80 ang farm gate price ng kada kilo ng manok pero pagdating ng palengke ay umaabot na ito sa P220 kada kilo.

Bumaba naman ng 50 centavos ang presyo ng bawat itlog at nananatili nasa P8 hanggang P9 ang presyo ng bawat itlog sa mga pamilihan.

Ayon kay DA spokesman Arnel de Mesa na ipaprioridad ang pagbusisi sa kung bakit tumaas ang presyo ng manok sa mga pamilihan gayung mababa ang halaga ng farm gate price nito at sapat ang suplay ng manok sa bansa.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2024/11/12/2399457/presyo-ng-manok-tumaas>