

CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY NOVEMBER 13, 2024

A. MANILA BULLETIN:

Catfish industry crucial to PH food security, economic growth—DA chief

World Bank praises Philippine reforestation program

Government grants 25 kilo of rice for military, uniformed personnel

Marcos' rice tariff cut yields minimal price drop, less than ₱1/kilo after 5 months—farmers' group

B. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Legislated funding eyed to revitalize ailing banana industry

DBM praises Marcos on rice assistance

The Eat Well, Live Well 2024 Youth Summit goes to Cebu City

C. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Gov't unveils framework to protect, enhance small-scale fisheries

BFAR earmarks P1.06B for seaweed industry's development

D. BUSINESS WORLD:

Weather remains risk to gov't corn self-sufficiency goals — feed millers

E. REMATE:

Tapyas-taripa sa bigas ni Marcos nagbunga lang ng wala pang pisong tapyas-presyo

P2.2M ismagel na asukal nasabat sa Zambo

F. ABANTE:

P42 per kilong bigas mabibili na

G. THE MANILA TIMES:

Pangandaman: Rice grant to benefit farmers

H. BUSINESS MIRROR:

Farm, infra damage from Kristine now at P9.8 billion–DA

Sugarcane, palay pull down Q3 crops data

Sustainable aviation fuel: A new hope for Philippine agriculture

MANILA BULLETIN:

Catfish industry crucial to PH food security, economic growth—DA chief

BY [JEL SANTOS](#)

Nov 12, 2024 06:25 PM



Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. underscored the vital role of the catfish industry in bolstering food security and driving economic growth, as he addressed the 1st National Catfish Dialogue held by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) from Nov. 4 to 6, 2024.

Speaking to key industry stakeholders, the DA chief emphasized that catfish farming is a crucial component of the Philippines' food production efforts.

“Catfish farming holds a significant place in our national food production plan,” Laurel said, stressing the sector's potential to meet the country's increasing demand for sustainable, accessible food sources.

The DA chief pointed out that addressing the needs of the catfish industry requires a united effort.

“With rising demand for sustainable and accessible food sources, it is essential that we, from the government sector, producers, processors, the scientific community, and policymakers, come together to identify challenges and collaborate on solutions,” he stated.

According to BFAR, the country counted 2,792 catfish farms spanning 670 hectares as of December 2023, with fingerling production reaching over 87 million—a growth of 8 percent since 2020.

BFAR Officer-in-Charge Isidro M. Velayo Jr. noted that the catfish industry, initially a small venture in the early 2000s, has expanded considerably and is now poised to drive socio-economic development among fish farmers nationwide.

He acknowledged, however, that the sector still faces hurdles, including breeder shortages, technology gaps, and price volatility.

The three-day event, organized by BFAR's National Inland Fisheries and Technology Center, National Freshwater Technology Center, and Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, gathered experts, fish farmers, researchers, and members of the academe to assess the industry's current state and chart a path forward.

High-ranking officials, including DA Undersecretary for Fisheries Drusila Esther Bayate, joined Laurel in supporting the catfish sector's development.

Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. underscored the vital role of the catfish industry in bolstering food security and driving economic growth, as he addressed the 1st National Catfish Dialogue held by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) from Nov. 4 to 6, 2024.

Speaking to key industry stakeholders, the DA chief emphasized that catfish farming is a crucial component of the Philippines' food production efforts.

"Catfish farming holds a significant place in our national food production plan," Laurel said, stressing the sector's potential to meet the country's increasing demand for sustainable, accessible food sources.

The DA chief pointed out that addressing the needs of the catfish industry requires a united effort.

"With rising demand for sustainable and accessible food sources, it is essential that we, from the government sector, producers, processors, the scientific community, and policymakers, come together to identify challenges and collaborate on solutions," he stated.

According to BFAR, the country counted 2,792 catfish farms spanning 670 hectares as of December 2023, with fingerling production reaching over 87 million—a growth of 8 percent since 2020.

BFAR Officer-in-Charge Isidro M. Velayo Jr. noted that the catfish industry, initially a small venture in the early 2000s, has expanded considerably and is now poised to drive socio-economic development among fish farmers nationwide.

He acknowledged, however, that the sector still faces hurdles, including breeder shortages, technology gaps, and price volatility.

The three-day event, organized by BFAR's National Inland Fisheries and Technology Center, National Freshwater Technology Center, and Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, gathered experts, fish farmers, researchers, and members of the academe to assess the industry's current state and chart a path forward.

High-ranking officials, including DA Undersecretary for Fisheries Drusila Esther Bayate, joined Laurel in supporting the catfish sector's development.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/12/catfish-industry-crucial-to-ph-food-security>

MANILA BULLETIN:

World Bank praises Philippine reforestation program

BY [DERCO ROSAL](#)

Nov 12, 2024 04:31 PM

The Philippines' National Greening Program (NGP) is mitigating climate risks and reducing the country's poverty rate, according to the World Bank.

In a Nov. 11 blog post, the multilateral lender cited the dual goals successfully achieved by the NGP, a collaborative initiative co-implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Agriculture (DA), and Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) since 2011.

"Tree planting programs offer the potential to sequester carbon, create jobs, and transfer productive forestry assets to individuals or communities," said Jeffrey Pagel, an environmental economist at the London School of Economics and an associate at the Grantham Research Institute on climate change and the environment, and Lorenzo Sileci, a research officer at the Grantham Research Institute.

According to Pagel and Sileci, the NGP "exemplifies how tree planting can contribute to both climate mitigation and poverty alleviation."

By reducing carbon emissions at a low cost while providing job opportunities, tree planting drives long-term sustainable growth.

"As countries look to scale up their climate actions, programs like the NGP should be considered not only for their environmental benefits but also for their ability to transform rural economies and reduce poverty," they concluded.

More than just planting trees

According to the DENR, the NGP is the country's largest reforestation effort to date, aiming to plant 1.5 billion trees across 1.5 million hectares from 2011 to 2016.

Beyond tree planting, the initiative empowered local organizations by paying them for tree planting and maintenance, with full control and proceeds after three years, fostering economic buy-in and long-term poverty alleviation.

Over six years, the NGP "implemented over 80,000 projects, planting hundreds of thousands of hectares, creating jobs, and empowering local communities."

Economic spillovers

Pagel and Sileci's study analyzed the economic spillover effects of the NGP by comparing areas near treated areas with those without neighboring treatments.

"We find that control villages adjacent to NGP-treated areas experienced a 4.5 percentage point reduction in unlit settlements, suggesting that the program's economic benefits extended beyond immediate intervention areas," they said.

Also, results revealed that NGP led to a 3.8 percent decline in agricultural employment, while unskilled manual labor and the service sector saw increases of 5.6 percent and 2.6 percent, respectively.

This suggests that the NGP "helped transition workers from agricultural jobs to higher-productivity sectors."

They also found no indication that these changes were caused by changes in the number of available workers or migration. This suggests that the program itself created economic activity.

"Beyond the socioeconomic benefits, the NGP also delivered significant environmental gains," the economists said.

The NGP sequestered between 71.4 and 303 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) over ten years.

"At the lower bound, this is equivalent to the emissions of 17 million gasoline-powered vehicles driven for one year or the CO₂ output from 18 coal-fired power plants."

The initiative reduces carbon emissions at a cost of \$2 to \$10 per ton, with sequestration benefits exceeding costs between years six and nine, valued between \$163 million and \$9.57 billion.

NGP on policymaking

Pagel and Sileci pointed out that the NGP's success shows the importance of involving local communities in tree planting programs for sustainable environmental and socioeconomic outcomes.

"Second, tree planting programs should not be viewed solely as environmental interventions," they said, as they can drive economic development and reduce poverty, especially in rural areas.

"By aligning environmental and development goals, programs like the NGP can help achieve multiple policy objectives simultaneously," they stressed.

Additionally, the NGP underscores the need for long-term monitoring and support to ensure the survival of planted trees and sustained economic benefits.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/12/world-bank-praises-ph-reforestation-program>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Government grants 25 kilo of rice for military, uniformed personnel

BY [DERCO ROSAL](#)

Nov 12, 2024 04:14 PM

The government will provide 25 kilograms of rice assistance to all active military and uniformed personnel (MUP) to help them manage socio-economic challenges and support the agriculture sector.

Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman commended the president for issuing Administrative Order (AO) No. 26, authorizing the one-time grant of rice assistance to all military and uniformed personnel (MUP). The rice assistance grant will be funded from the 2024 Contingent Fund under the General Appropriations Act (GAA), according to applicable laws and regulations. According to Pangandaman, the rice assistance grant for 2024 recognizes the contribution of all MUPs to the country. This assistance aims to help them in “coping with the effects of the current socio-economic challenges, and to also provide economic opportunities for those in the agriculture sector.”

“The responsibility our MUPs carry for the country's security is invaluable, so when we learned how essential rice assistance is for them, especially for those stationed in remote provinces and isolated areas, we recommended this to the President,” Pangandaman said in a Nov. 12 statement.

As stated by the DBM, authorized representatives of MUPs will receive rice assistance at designated National Food Authority (NFA) warehouses from December 2024 to March 2025, following a schedule set by the agency. The rice assistance will be supplied by local farmers participating in the Department of Agriculture’s (DA) Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita program.

“This program is also beneficial because it helps not only the military and uniformed personnel but also our local farmers,” Pangandaman also said. Specifically, AO No. 26 covers the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) under the Department of National Defense, Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), and Philippine Public Safety College under the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Likewise, it covers Bureau of Corrections under the Department of Justice (BOJ), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) under the Department of Transportation (DOTr), and National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“The Order takes effect immediately following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation,” the DBM stated.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/12/military-uniformed-personnel-get-25kg-rice>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Marcos' rice tariff cut yields minimal price drop, less than ₱1/kilo after 5 months—farmers' group

BY [JEL SANTOS](#)

Nov 12, 2024 12:37 PM



(SANTI SAN JUAN/MB PHOTO)

Nearly five months after President Marcos signed Executive Order No. 62 to reduce tariffs on imported rice, prices have dropped by less than ₱1 per kilogram, farmers' group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) said on Monday, Nov. 11.

In a statement, KMP National Chairperson Danilo Ramos criticized the limited impact of the order, which cut tariffs on imported rice from 35 percent to 15 percent.

Ramos pointed to recent data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), showing that the price of regular-milled rice in October averaged ₱50.22 per kilo, a decline of only ₱0.44 from ₱50.66 per kilo in August.

“Walang signipikanteng paggalaw sa presyo ng bigas limang buwan matapos lagdaan ni Pangulong Marcos Jr. ang EO 62 na nagpababa sa taripa ng imported na bigas mula 35 percent tungong 15 percent (There has been no significant movement in rice prices five months after President Marcos Jr. signed EO 62, which reduced the tariff on imported rice from 35 percent to 15 percent),” he said.

“Kung meron mang bumagsak sa pagkakalagda ng EO 62, ito ay ang presyo ng lokal na palay na dumausdos mula ₱25/kilo tungong ₱15-₱18 kada kilo. Higit itong ikinalugi ng mga magsasaka na nagkapatung-patong na ang utang dahil sa sunud-sunod na kalamidad na tumama sa bansa (If anything dropped after EO 62 was signed, it was the price of local palay, which fell from ₱25 per

kilo to ₱15-₱18 per kilo. This has led to even greater losses for farmers, who are already burdened with debt due to the series of calamities that have hit the country),” he went on.

The Manila Bulletin has sought a statement from the Department of Agriculture (DA) on KMP’s claim that rice prices have dropped by less than ₱1 per kilogram nearly five months after President Marcos signed Executive Order No. 62. As of writing, the agency has not provided a response.

Ramos has called for measures to reduce rice prices without disadvantaging local farmers.

The progressive group’s proposals include banning agricultural land conversions that threaten rice production, halting imports in favor of boosting local food production through government support, cracking down on rice cartels and agricultural smuggling, and setting up government programs to purchase farm products directly from farmers to stabilize prices.

Ramos added that farmers also need swift and sufficient relief and livelihood assistance following natural disasters like typhoons and droughts, which further impact local agriculture.

DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. earlier said the full effects of the tariff reduction will be felt by the public by January 2025.

On June 20, President Marcos enacted Executive Order (EO) 62, which lowered rice tariffs from 35 percent to 15 percent, leading to the influx of imported rice into the country.

“The DA estimates by mid-October dapat pababa na iyan slowly, but the full effects should be felt by January of 2025 (The DA estimates that by mid-October, it should start decreasing slowly, but the full effects should be felt by January 2025),” Laurel said, referring to the price of rice.

“Marami pa tayong stocks ng, iyong stocks na imported na nabili ng mahal paubos na (We still have a lot of stocks, but the expensive imported stocks that were purchased are nearly depleted).”

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/12/marcos-rice-tariff-cut-yields-minimal-price-drop>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Legislated funding eyed to revitalize ailing banana industry

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

November 13, 2024 | 12:00am



The Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PBGEA) and the Department of Agriculture are drafting a banana industry revitalization plan to immediately address the concerns of the local farmers, from production costs, pests and diseases to market competition.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The government and industry stakeholders are looking at legislating a plan that will not just revitalize the country's ailing banana sector but also salvage the country's eroding market share abroad.

The Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PBGEA) and the Department of Agriculture are drafting a banana industry revitalization plan to immediately address the concerns of the local farmers, from production costs, pests and diseases to market competition.

PBGEA executive director Stephen Antig said the plan is similar to the salt industry development plan that was enacted into law earlier this year, which would utilize legislated funding to bankroll various programs and projects to reinvigorate the banana industry.

The salt industry development law earmarks tariffs collected from imported salt to bankroll programs to improve domestic production.

The banana revitalization plan will be turned into a legislative bill that will be pushed by both the government and private sector for enactment into law.

There have been previous attempts to enact a law that will bankroll certain programs for the improvement of the banana industry, especially with the worsening impact of Panama disease on farms and plantations.

“Hopefully, once implemented, we should see some improvement not only in production and more so in the sustainability of the industry,” Antig told The STAR.

The crafting of the revitalization plan comes at a time when the Philippines is losing substantial market share in key Asian markets particularly South Korea and China.

International Trade Center (ITC) data showed that the Philippines lost nearly 11 percentage points of banana market share in South Korea from January to August on an annual basis.

The Philippines also lost almost 13 percentage points of market share in China from January to July versus the same seven-month period last year.

With the latest figures, the Philippines’ share in South Korea’s banana market is now down to 60 percent while in China, the country currently accounts for nearly 25 percent, based on ITC data.

The University of Asia and the Pacific’s Center for Food and Agri Business recommended that the government should “work closely” with the industry players in order to “strategize” and “prioritize” necessary measures to help the sector.

“It is important that the government listens to what the industry needs rather than prescribing based on what it thinks the industry needs (and) then act with urgency,” the think tank told The STAR in an email.

The Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. also threw its support behind the revitalization plan and argued that a higher budget allocation for the banana industry is needed.

Government officials earlier pointed out that the immediate ratification of the Philippines-South Korea free trade agreement (FTA) would provide local producers

with a level playing field in terms of the tariff rate slapped on the country's banana exports.

Under the trade accord, South Korea will cut its tariffs on Philippine bananas to zero from the current 30 percent within a five-year period. Foreign banana competitors are already enjoying lower tariffs compared to the Philippines, with the likes of Vietnam benefitting from a zero tariff beginning next year due to an FTA with South Korea.

Industry analysts have identified some of the major problems hampering the local banana industry, such as increased foreign competition from neighboring countries, production challenges, quality concerns and tariff disadvantages.

The STAR earlier reported that rising geopolitical tensions in the West Philippine Sea have impacted Filipino banana growers as China has cut back its purchases of the country's prized commodity, worsening the erosion of the Philippines' foothold in key Asian markets.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/11/13/2399641/legislated-funding-eyed-revitalize-ailing-banana-industry>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DBM praises Marcos on rice assistance

The Philippine Star

November 13, 2024 | 12:00am



President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. leads the distribution of rice and farm inputs for the residents of General Trias, Cavite on September 22, 2023

STAR / KJ Rosales

MANILA, Philippines — Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah Pangandaman has commended President Marcos for issuing Administrative Order 26, authorizing the one-time grant of rice assistance to all military and other uniformed personnel (MUP).

AO 26 provides a uniform quantity of 25 kilograms of rice to all active MUP as of Nov. 30, 2024.

The DBM and the Department of Agriculture recommended the rice assistance grant to all MUP for fiscal year 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 also provide economic opportunities for those in the agriculture sector.

Rice assistance will be distributed to authorized representatives of MUPs from December 2024 to March 2025 in designated National Food Authority warehouses.

Meanwhile, the rice assistance will be sourced from local and participating farmers of the Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita or Kadiwa program of the DA.

The DBM chief added that this is a good program since not only military and uniformed personnel are helped, but also the farmers.

The funding requirement for the grant of the rice assistance shall be charged against the Contingent Fund under the FY 2024 General Appropriations Act, subject to compliance with relevant laws, rules and regulations.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/13/2399713/dbm-praises-marcos-rice-assistance>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

The Eat Well, Live Well 2024 Youth Summit goes to Cebu City

The Philippine Star

November 12, 2024 | 1:00pm

BrandSpace



(From Left) Redscope CEO Sarah Coe, CBN reporter Morexette Erram, Department of Agriculture's Cheryl de la Victoria, Redscope TWG chairperson Dr. Pauly Jean Ubial, APC president Koichi Ozaki, Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Ma. Victoria Abrera, Department of Education's Atty. Salustiano Jimenez, APC director of sales, marketing and public relations Mika Makino, chief sustainability officer Ernie Carlos and GM for corporate planning and public relations Madelin Dofiles

CEBU, Philippines — It was a day of empowerment, learning and commitment to health and sustainability for Ajinomoto Philippines Corporation (APC) when they successfully held its Eat Well, Live Well: 2024 Youth Summit at the Marco Polo Plaza Hotel in Cebu City. Building on the success of last year's event, this year's summit gathered over 150 enthusiastic young Filipinos, educators and advocates in a day focused on wellness, nutrition and sustainable living.

The 2024 Youth Summit is part of APC's ongoing commitment to empowering the next generation with the knowledge and tools to make a positive impact on their communities and the environment. The event was filled with interactive sessions,

engaging talks, and collaborative activities aimed at fostering a culture of health and sustainability among Gen Z participants.

Empowering Cebu's youth for a healthier future

APC Group president Koichi Ozaki delivered a remarkable message to the youth and shared Ajinomoto's vision for a healthier, more sustainable Philippines. "The mission of APC is to contribute to food and wellness to better lives of the future and we take it upon us to inspire the younger generations to become champions of a healthy and sustainable future," he said. "Ajinomoto is here to make your eating experience happy, healthy and satisfying."

Throughout the day, participants engaged in panel discussions with experts from the Department of Agriculture (DA), represented by Cheryl de la Victoria, chief of Regional Agricultural and Fisheries Information Section, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), represented by Maria Victoria Abrera, regional director for Central Visayas, exploring key topics such as sustainable nutrition, waste reduction and wellness practices.

Through these dialogues, APC aimed to deepen the youth's understanding of how small daily actions can lead to significant positive changes for both health and the environment.

Interactive activities and youth-led solutions

The summit featured hands-on activities, allowing attendees to actively participate in brainstorming solutions for real-world sustainability challenges. In one of the day's highlights, a Youth-Led Output Activity encouraged participants to develop actionable ideas for living healthier and more eco-conscious lives. Groups collaborated to present innovative approaches, from reducing food waste to promoting planet-based diets, which encourage the increase in consumption of vegetables as reflected in Ajinomoto's "Eat Well, Live Well" philosophy.

The breakout room sessions also gave opportunities for all student attendees to gain first-hand learning experience about the science behind MSG plus witness how vegetables can be turned into a delicious dish using almost all its parts with nearly zero-waste. The best part, they all got to taste it.

A ceremonial pledge concluded the event, with all participants vowing to implement the lessons learned and advocate for healthier, more sustainable lifestyles within their communities.



Another successful run of Eat Well, Live Well 2024 Youth Summit by Ajinomoto Philippines Corporation

A continued commitment to health and sustainability

Ajinomoto's Eat Well, Live Well: 2024 Youth Summit aligns with the company's global vision of extending healthy life expectancy and reducing environmental impact by 50% by 2030. Through impactful events like this, APC Group continues to inspire young Filipinos to become proactive leaders in health and environmental stewardship.

To show force on Ajinomoto's advocacy for a better and healthier future for all Filipino children, APC Group is also bringing the Aji-Ginisa I Love Veggie-licious School Caravan in Cebu, at the Lahug Elementary School, to continue encouraging and educating the younger generations about the importance of nutritious eating.

To learn more, visit www.ajinomoto.com.

Editor's Note: This press release for Ajinomoto is not covered by Philstar.com's editorial guidelines.

<https://www.philstar.com/other-sections/supplements/2024/11/12/2399341/eat-well-live-well-2024-youth-summit-goes-cebu-city>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Gov't unveils framework to protect, enhance small-scale fisheries

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 12:43 PM November 12, 2024



Pantabangan Aquaculture Park | PHOTO: Official Facebook Page of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Central Office

The government unveiled a framework for protecting and enhancing the role of small-scale fisheries in food security, a first of its kind in Asia.

Called the National Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF), it adopts a human rights-based approach to implement the guidelines to boost small-scale fisheries' contribution to food security, poverty reduction and sustainable development.

It calls for adopting a participatory, multi-partner mechanism to identify challenges faced by the small-scale fisheries sector and design strategic interventions to address those.

The initiative's priority areas are responsible governance of tenure; sustainable resource management; social development, employment and decent work; value-chains, postharvest and trade; gender equality and disaster risk and climate change.

The FAO said these guidelines are an integral part of its roadmap for transforming aquatic food systems, which works towards effective management of all fisheries to deliver healthy stocks and secure equitable livelihoods for all.

It also supports the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the adopted Pact for the Future, aimed at accelerating the achievement of its sustainable development goals.

“Our next step entails that we make sure that this does not remain a plan but goes into implementation. The challenges facing small-scale fisheries are varied and complex,” FAO country representative Lionel Henri Valentin Dabbadie said in a statement on Monday.

“But with the right partnerships, the right investments, the commitment of all stakeholders, and the framework provided by the NPOA-SSF, I am confident we have everything at our disposal to overcome these challenges,” Dabbadie said.

The FAO said it developed the guidelines in consultation with member states and stakeholders across the globe.

“It has also been tremendously inspiring to witness throughout the years the level of participation from the communities. The way the community members demonstrate leadership in proactively engaging with the project is something we must continue to be in awe of,” he added.

According to the FAO, small-scale fisheries are composed of at least 40 percent of the global catch from capture fisheries. It supports 110 million people directly and benefits 500 million people globally, including their households.

The UN's specialized agency said small-scale fisheries contribute significantly to the Philippines' nutrition, income, and employment of the rural poor.

Citing data from BFAR, it noted that small-scale fisheries account for 26.6 percent of overall fisheries production and employ about 2.19 million people.

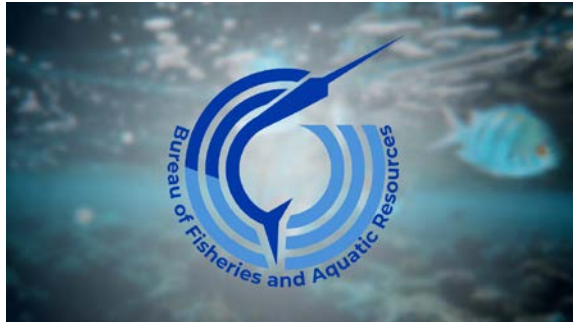
<https://business.inquirer.net/489599/govt-unveils-framework-to-protect-enhance-small-scale-fisheries>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

BFAR earmarks P1.06B for seaweed industry's development

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 10:46 AM November 12, 2024



Logo of the the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. INQUIRER.net FILE PHOTO

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has earmarked P1.06 billion to advance the seaweed industry's development next year.

The Department of Agriculture aims to expand the aquaculture sector through the Enhanced Philippine Seaweed Development Program, noting that seaweed is one of the country's major agricultural exports.

The BFAR sees a significant growth potential for seaweed farming, identifying additional 64,000 hectares of potential area for expansion that could increase annual output by approximately 50 percent.

“This represents a low-hanging fruit that could create thousands of jobs and substantially boost the country's foreign exchange earnings,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said in a statement on Monday.

BFAR officer-in-charge Isidro Velayo Jr. said half of the budget would be used to distribute seaweed farm implements, build 109 new nurseries and maintain 24 existing seaweed culture areas.

Also in the pipeline is the construction of eight warehouses, 34 mechanical dryers and 80 seaweed food carts nationwide.

The BFAR set aside another P10 million to procure two bioreactors used in aquaculture to treat wastewater and maintain water quality. These are expected to produce 4,100 metric tons of propagules, or seaweed planting materials, by next year.

Velayo said 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 per kg (dw).

Seaweed production totaled 1.6 million MT last year, an increase of 5.3 percent from 1.54 million MT in 2022, data from the

Philippine Statistics Authority showed. It has been on an uptrend between 2021 and 2023.

Some 228,570 MT of seaweed products were produced during the period, valued at P12.7 billion.

In the third quarter of 2024, seaweed output reached 363,258.92 MT, down by 1.5 percent from 368,797.89 MT in the same period a year ago.

The BFAR said Tawi-tawi province has 20,000 hectares of potential seaweed farming areas on top of the existing 62,000 hectares.

Southwestern Luzon and the Zamboanga Peninsula also have potential farming areas of 12,736 hectares and 16,845 hectares, respectively.

<https://business.inquirer.net/489555/bfar-earmarks-p1-06b-for-seaweed-industrys-development>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Weather remains risk to gov't corn self-sufficiency goals — feed millers

November 12, 2024 | 8:54 pm



REUTERS

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

WEATHER disturbances remain a major hurdle to achieving the government's plans for improving corn production, feed millers said, adding that the resulting impact on feed prices will have knock-on effects on food price stability.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is targeting an 81% corn self-sufficiency rate, which feed millers said would reduce import dependency and result in tariff savings that it hopes will be reflected in lower feed and food prices.

The DA said that as of Nov. 5, damage to the corn crop due to recent weather disturbances was 377,378 metric tons, valued at P7.10 billion.

"If domestic corn production increases and meets a significant portion of demand, it could potentially lower the cost of animal feed," Edwin C. Mapanao, president of the Philippine Association of Feed Millers, Inc., told *BusinessWorld*.

"Corn is a primary ingredient in feed, and reducing reliance on imports can decrease costs associated with transportation and tariffs," he added.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, the volume of corn production rose 1.3% during the third quarter to 2.5 million metric tons.

In June, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. signed Executive Order No. 62, which extended the lowered tariffs on corn imports until 2028. Tariffs on corn were retained at 5% for shipments within the minimum access volume quota and 15% for those exceeding the quota.

Mr. Mapanao said that the actual impact on feed prices will also depend on other factors, such as demand for animal products and global grain prices.

The DA said it allocated P5.32 billion to the National Corn Program, which would fund better planting materials, fertilizer, training, postharvest machinery, and small-scale irrigation projects.

“Achieving this target would depend on several conditions, such as favorable weather patterns, effective pest and disease management, efficient use of farming technology, and government support in terms of subsidies and infrastructure,” Mr. Mapanao said.

Mr. Mapanao added that the frequent typhoons and climate change continue to pose a threat to production.

“These factors can severely disrupt agricultural activities, damage crops, and make it difficult to meet production forecasts,” he said.

Mr. Mapanao said that the Philippines should develop resilient farming practices, strengthen disaster preparedness, and invest in climate-smart agriculture.

The Philippines is set to face an increased likelihood of tropical cyclone activity in the coming month due to La Niña.

The government weather service, known as PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration), said there is a 71% likelihood of La Niña setting in during the November to January period.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/11/12/634515/weather-remains-risk-to-govt-corn-self-sufficiency-goals-feed-millers/>

REMATE:

Tapyas-taripa sa bigas ni Marcos nagbunga lang ng wala pang pisong tapyas-presyo

November 12, 2024 19:22



Halos limang buwan matapos lagdaan ni Pangulong Marcos ang Executive Order No. 62 para bawasan ang mga taripa sa inangkat na bigas, bumaba ang mga presyo nito ng wala pang ₱1 kada kilo lamang, sinabi ng grupo ng mga magsasaka na Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) noong Lunes, Nob. 11.

Sa isang pahayag, pinuna ni KMP National Chairperson Danilo Ramos ang limitadong epekto ng kautusan, na nagbawas ng taripa sa imported na bigas mula 35 porsiyento hanggang 15 porsiyento.

Itinuro ni Ramos ang kamakailang datos mula sa Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), na nagpapakita na ang presyo ng regular-milled rice noong Oktubre ay nag-average ng ₱50.22 kada kilo, isang pagbaba lamang ng ₱0.44 mula sa ₱50.66 kada kilo noong Agosto.

“Walang signipikanteng paggalaw sa presyo ng bigas limang buwan matapos lagdaan ni Pangulong Marcos Jr. ang EO 62 na nagpababa sa taripa ng imported na bigas mula 35 percent tungong 15 percent,” aniya.

“Kung meron mang bumagsak sa pagkakalagda ng EO 62, ito ay ang presyo ng lokal na palay na dumausdos mula ₱25/kilo tungong ₱15-₱18 kada kilo. Higit itong ikinalugi ng mga magsasaka na nagkapatung-patong na ang utang dahil sa sunud-sunod na kalamidad na tumama sa bansa,” dagdag pa niya,

Nanawagan si Ramos ng mga hakbang para mapababa ang presyo ng bigas nang hindi napinsala ang mga lokal na magsasaka.

Kabilang sa mga panukala ng progresibong grupo ang pagbabawal sa pagpapalit ng lupang pang-agrikultura na nagbabanta sa produksyon ng bigas, pagpapahinto sa pag-import pabor sa pagpapalakas ng lokal na produksyon ng pagkain sa pamamagitan ng suporta ng gobyerno, pagsugpo sa mga rice cartel at smuggling ng agrikultura, at pag-set up ng mga programa ng gobyerno na bumili ng mga produktong sakahan nang direkta mula sa mga magsasaka upang maging matatag. mga presyo.

Idinagdag ni Ramos na nangangailangan din ang mga magsasaka ng mabilis at sapat na tulong at tulong sa kabuhayan kasunod ng mga natural na sakuna tulad ng bagyo at tagtuyot, na higit na nakakaapekto sa lokal na agrikultura. **RNT**

<https://remate.ph/tapyas-taripa-sa-bigas-ni-marcos-nagbunga-lang-ng-wala-pang-pisong-tapyas-presyo/>

REMATE:

P2.2M ismagel na asukal nasabat sa Zambo

November 12, 2024 17:52



ZAMBOANGA CITY – Nasakote ng pinagsamang anti-smuggling operation nitong Lunes ang apat na indibidwal at pagkakasamsam ng PHP2.2 milyong halaga ng smuggled na asukal sa isang pribadong shipyard sa Barangay Cawit, na nasa 13 kilometro sa kanluran ng sentro ng lungsod.

Sinabi ni Brig. Gen. Bowenn Joey Masauding, Police Regional Office-Zamboanga Peninsula (PRO-9) director, iniulat na ang driver, 48; kahaliling drayber, 44; at dalawang lalaking pasahero na may edad 43 at 49 ay nahuli ng mga pulis at mga ahente ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) dakong 3:40 a.m.

Nadiskubre sa operasyon ang 900 sako ng asukal, bawat isa ay tumitimbang ng 50 kilo.

Ang karagdagang pagsisiyasat ay nagsiwalat ng mga karagdagang sako na may parehong tatak na nakasalansan sa malapit, na nagpapatunay ng pagkakaroon ng mga ipinagbabawal na produkto.

“Ang operasyong ito ay binibigyang-diin ang patuloy na pangako ng BOC, sa malapit na koordinasyon sa lokal na tagapagpatupad ng batas, upang labanan ang iligal na kalakalan at pangalagaan ang publiko mula sa hindi ligtas at mga ipinagbabawal na produkto,” sabi ni Masauding.

Kasalukuyang kinukumpleto ng BOC-Port of Zamboanga ang imbentaryo ng mga nasamsam na asukal at ang dalawang 10-wheeler truck na sangkot sa pagbibiyahe ng mga kontrabando.

Naglunsad na ng imbestigasyon ang mga awtoridad para matukoy ang may-ari ng mga smuggled goods.

Ang pag-aresto ay kasunod ng katulad na operasyon noong Nobyembre 4, nang makuha ng BOC-Zamboanga at ng Regional Special Operations Unit-9 ang PHP425,000 halaga ng smuggled na asukal at arestuhin ang dalawang suspek sa isang pribadong pantalan sa Barangay Baliwasan.

<https://remate.ph/p2-2m-ismagel-na-asukal-nasabat-sa-zambo/>

ABANTE:

P42 per kilong bigas mabibili na

Abante News

- November 12, 2024



Pinagmalaki ng Department of Agriculture na may P42 per kilo na bigas na sa tatlong palengke sa Quezon City.

Sa pahayag kahapon, sinabi ng DA na nag-ikot ito sa ilang palengke noong November 11 at may P42-P45 per kilong bigas itong nakita na sa Murphy Public Market, Mega Q-mart at Kamuning public market.

Hindi pa available ang November 11 monitoring ng DA as of 4:30 pm kahapon. Ang latest ay ang November 8 monitoring kung saan ang presyo ng regular milled rice ay nasa P45-P47 per kilo at ang well-milled rice ay P45-P52 per kilo.

Ang P45-P52 per kilo na well-milled rice ay matagpuan lamang sa 6 sa 27 palengke sa Metro Manila na iniikotan ng DA –Dagonoy, La Huerta, Malabon, Paco, Pasay at Pritil. (Eileen Mencias)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/11/12/p42-per-kilong-bigas-mabibili-na/>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Pangandaman: Rice grant to benefit farmers

By Catherine S. Valente
November 13, 2024

BUDGET Secretary Amenah Pangandaman said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s order authorizing the one-time grant of rice assistance to all military and uniformed personnel (MUP) would not only help the officers and their families but also benefit the local farmers.

Pangandaman hailed the President's Administrative Order (AO) 26, which provides a uniform quantity of 25 kilograms of rice to all active MUP.

DBM, through Pangandaman, and the Department of Agriculture (DA) recommended the rice assistance grant in recognition of their invaluable contribution to the country, to assist them in coping with the effects of socioeconomic challenges, and to provide economic opportunities for those in the agriculture sector.

The rice assistance will be distributed from December 2024 to March 2025.

The rice will be sourced from local and participating farmers of the Kadiwa program of the DA.

"This program is good because we're not only helping military and uniformed personnel but also our local farmers," Pangandaman said in a statement.

AO 26 covers the 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, and National Mapping and Resource Information Authority.

The funding requirement for the grant of the rice assistance will be charged against the contingent fund under Republic Act 11975 or the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2024, subject to compliance with relevant laws, rules, and regulations.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/13/news/national/pangandaman-rice-grant-to-benefit-farmers/2002650>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Farm, infra damage from Kristine now at P9.8 billion–DA

Ada Pelonia
November 12, 2024

THE agriculture and infrastructure damage from tropical storm Kristine has reached P9.81 billion, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The DA said in its latest bulletin that the volume of production losses across regions was 380,704 metric tons (MT).

Broken down, rice bore most of the damage at 323,633 MT. This was followed by high-value crops at 46,016 MT, corn at 7,148 MT, cassava at 2,126 MT, and fisheries at 1,781 MT.

The agency said these were equivalent to P5.89 billion for rice; P1.23 million for high-value crops, P158.37 million for corn, and P40.93 million for cassava.

For livestock and poultry, 13,877 heads of swine, chicken, and cattle, among others, were affected by the typhoon valued at P32.06 million.

The fisheries sector lost P665.01 million, affecting fish ponds and cages, fishing gears, and boats, among other fish species.

Based on the DA report, irrigation systems, farm infrastructures, and machineries were also hit by the storm, with damage valued at P1.75 billion, P50.76 million, and P300,000, respectively.

According to the agency, typhoon Kristine displaced 233,923 farmers and fisherfolk, with 183,877 hectares (ha) of farmland. Of this, 45,472 hectares showed no chance of recovery.

Despite the damage sustained by the sector, the DA said it provided affected farmers with several interventions. This includes P549.64 million worth of agricultural inputs like rice, corn, and vegetable seeds; as well as drugs and biologics for livestock and poultry.

It added that available funds from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) would also be disbursed to indemnify affected farmers.

The agency recently noted that 2,644 farmers from Bicol received indemnification checks worth P24.4 million from the PCIC as compensation for the damage brought by typhoon Kristine.

Bicol was one of the regions most affected by the severe tropical storm in its wake.

According to PCIC President Jovy C. Bernabe, the PCIC continues to process insurance claims of affected farmers. He said the initial assessment made by the agency already indicated indemnification payments would amount to at least P666.5 million.

Laurel earlier directed the PCIC to immediately release indemnification payments to help farmers quickly recover from the disaster brought by Kristine.

“We need to equip our farmers and fisherfolk with financial resources to help them quickly get back on their feet, to recover from this disaster brought about by climate change,” he said.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/12/farm-infra-damage-from-kristine-now-at-p9-8-billion-da/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Sugarcane, palay pull down Q3 crops data

Ada Pelonia
November 12, 2024

THE volume of crop production slid by nearly 10 percent in the third quarter due to declines in sugarcane and palay output, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

PSA data indicated that crops production in July to September declined by 9.5 percent to 15.02 million metric tons (MMT) from the previous year's same period level of 16.60 MMT.

“The annual decline in the volume of crops production during the quarter was mainly brought about by the annual decreases noted in the production of sugarcane at 83.8 percent and palay at 12.3 percent,” the PSA said.

Livestock production recorded a 6.5 percent decline to 522,220 MT from 558,500 MT in the same period last year.

“The top contributor to this decrement was hog production, which dropped by 8.0 percent year-on-year.”

The volume of fisheries production dipped by 5.1 percent to 965,720 MT from the 1.02 MMT output in the same quarter of 2023.

It added that the declines in the subsector were noted in roundscad (galunggong), big-eyed scad (matangbaka), milkfish (bangus), among others.

PSA data showed that only the poultry production recorded an increment at 5.8 percent to 709,430 MT from the previous year's same period level of 670,480 MT.

“Chicken production, with a 69.5 percent share to the total volume of poultry production, grew by 6.0 percent. It primarily contributed to the annual increment of poultry production during the period.”

Data from the PSA showed that agricultural production in terms of value shrank by 3.7 percent in the third quarter. The crop, livestock, and fisheries subsectors registered declines.

Among all the subsectors, only the poultry subsector recorded growth in the July-to-September period.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) attributed the contraction in agricultural output to prolonged adverse weather conditions and persisting impacts of the African swine fever (ASF) on hog production.

“Undeniably, the combined effects of El Niño and La Niña weighed down palay production, a major contributor to the crop sector, which accounts for more than half of the value of agricultural and fisheries output,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said.

“We’re implementing changes to the rice cropping calendar and building infrastructure like water impounding dams to mitigate the impact of climate change on the farming sector,” he added.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/12/sugarcane-palay-pull-down-q3-crops-data/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Sustainable aviation fuel: A new hope for Philippine agriculture

BusinessMirror Editorial
November 13, 2024

The Indonesian Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources confirmed last July the technical feasibility of using coconut oil as a source of environmentally friendly jet fuel. (See, “Indonesia’s Energy Ministry Says Coconut-Based Jet Fuel Possible,” Tempo, July 23, 2024). The agency noted that sustainable aviation fuel, which is currently under development, utilizes used cooking oil or fat. A report by the Indonesia Business Post last September indicated that Jakarta will partner with Japanese investors who have the technology to process coconut oil into bio-aviation fuel or bioavtur.

In a separate report by Indonesia Business Post on November 5, the Ministry of Investment and Downstream Industry revealed that Jakarta will roll out a government initiative to transform seaweed into bioavtur as part of its energy downstreaming strategy. The Philippines’ neighbor in Southeast Asia is considered the world’s top producer of seaweed. The success of this initiative will be a boon to existing producers and other areas where seaweed can be cultivated.

These developments offer hope to Philippine agriculture, which has remained a laggard among all the economic sectors, based on the latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). For one, coconut oil is the Philippines’ top farm export while seaweed is also one of its major dollar earners. Annual export receipts from coconut oil alone have already exceeded the \$1-billion mark and this could go up further if the government is able to process coconut oil into sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), an agency attached to the Department of Agriculture, and Japan-based Manryu Co. Ltd. will explore the use of coconut oil as primary feedstock in the production of SAF. (See, “Manila wants to use coco oil for sustainable aviation fuel,” in the BusinessMirror, October 24, 2024). The agreement would maximize joint research and development between PCA’s Research and Development Branch and Manryu, which would center on conducting trials at PCA’s facilities to test the viability of the method in producing SAF. The two parties will

jointly conduct research, experiments and testing to refine the process of producing SAF and ensure that it meets global standards for aviation fuel.

The discovery of new uses for cash crops grown in the country would mean additional revenue streams for farmers and producers who rely on the agriculture sector for livelihood. Tapping coconut oil for SAF is a good start, but we urge the government to follow the lead of Indonesia and explore the use of seaweed for aviation fuel. The country should now increase its spending on research and development to encourage Filipino scientists and researchers to find other sources of fuel and energy that are not only cheap, but also friendly to the environment.

The International Air Transport Association estimates that SAF could contribute around 65 percent of the reduction in emissions needed by aviation to reach net zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050. Achieving this will require a massive increase in production of SAF to meet demand, according to IATA. Taking advantage of this opportunity will certainly help the Philippines' bid to become an "export powerhouse."

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/13/sustainable-aviation-fuel-a-new-hope-for-philippine-agriculture/>