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MANILA BULLETIN:

DA imposes temporary import ban on poultry products from Japan, Austria amid bird flu outbreaks

BY [JEL SANTOS](#)

Nov 14, 2024 06:02 PM



(MB PHOTO)

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has enforced a temporary ban on the importation of domestic and wild birds, as well as poultry products, from Japan and Austria following outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in both countries.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. issued separate memorandum orders on Tuesday, Nov. 12, announcing the ban in response to confirmed HPAI cases.

Temporary restriction is necessary to shield the Philippine poultry industry from animal health threats that could jeopardize food security, he stated.

“The poultry industry is a major investment and job generator, and a vital component in ensuring the country’s food security,” Laurel said in a statement.

“It is incumbent upon us to ensure that the local poultry population is not unduly placed at risk from highly infectious diseases.”

The recent outbreaks were officially reported to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). Japan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries confirmed an H5 subtype bird flu outbreak in Atsuma, Hokkaido, which occurred on Oct. 16, 2024, impacting domestic birds.

As such, an H5N1 outbreak was reported in Austria’s Mattighofen, Braunau am Inn, Oberosterreich, confirmed by the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety on Oct. 7.

Following these reports, the DA directed the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) to halt the issuance of sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances for birds and poultry products from the affected regions.

This includes restrictions on imports of poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs, and semen for artificial insemination of hens.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/14/temporary-import-ban-on-poultry-products>

MANILA BULLETIN:

1,437 farmers, fishers in Mindoro receive ₱24.73M in typhoon-indemnity from PCIC

BY [JEL SANTOS](#)

Nov 14, 2024 06:00 PM



A total of 1,437 farmers and fisherfolk in Mindoro received ₱24.73 million in indemnity payments from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC) as part of relief efforts following recent typhoons, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said.

Leading the distribution efforts on Thursday, Nov. 14, DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. reaffirmed the government's pledge to promptly aid those hit hardest by the storms.

"The timely release of these indemnity payments is part of government's commitment to immediately provide assistance to farmers and fisherfolk who suffered due to typhoons," he said in a statement.

Of the total amount, the agency said ₱16.046 million was allocated to 918 beneficiaries in Occidental Mindoro, while ₱8.684 million went to 519 beneficiaries in Oriental Mindoro.

The indemnities are intended to help farmers and fisherfolk recover from losses to crops, fishing equipment, and other vital assets that were heavily affected by the storms.

The recent typhoons brought widespread destruction across Mindoro, a region heavily reliant on agriculture and fishing.

The DA noted that PCIC's indemnity payments are a critical component of the relief and recovery process, providing financial relief to support the livelihoods of those affected.

In addition to the indemnity payouts, the agency said its Regional Field Office 4B has provided ₱261 million in additional support to affected farmers.

Such includes financial aid, hybrid rice and corn seeds, fertilizer discounts, and hauling trucks aimed at stabilizing and strengthening the region's agricultural recovery.

PCIC has urged farmers and fisherfolk in disaster-prone regions like Mindoro to enroll in its crop insurance program, which is designed to mitigate losses from natural disasters and safeguard livelihoods.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/14/1-437-farmers-fishers-receive-24-73-m>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

US donates P196 million to typhoon victims

[Michael Punongbayan](#) - The Philippine Star

November 15, 2024 | 12:00am



USAID assistance reaches victims of Typhoon Kristine, Oct. 29, 2024.

USAID Philippines

MANILA, Philippines — An additional P196 million (\$3.5 million) in aid to victims of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine in the Philippines has been provided by the US government, through the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

The funds will augment the P84 million (\$1.5 million) donated by the US last month shortly after Kristine’s onslaught, which claimed the lives of at least 159 people in the Bicol region and northern Luzon provinces.

Around 2,430,237 families or 9,626,456 people affected and displaced by the cyclone are receiving government assistance.

Clean water, shelter and cash assistance for residents of Bicol and Batangas will be provided by the USAID through the additional funds. Logistics and sanitation support are also covered.

The total value of US support for the Philippines’ disaster response is now at P280 million (\$5 million).

“As your friend, partner and ally, the United States is committed to working with the Philippine government and people as they rebuild and recover,” said US Ambassador MaryKay Carlson.

Since Oct. 25, the US has been working with humanitarian partners to deliver lifesaving assistance to communities affected by tropical cyclones and flooding.

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) earlier distributed 1,500 shelter-grade tarpaulins and 1,500 kitchen sets funded by the USAID to disaster-affected families in Albay and Camarines Sur.

These relief items were pre-positioned at the OCD humanitarian relief depot at Fort Magsaysay, an Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement site in Nueva Ecija.

The US embassy in Manila said the USAID and IOM are working together to assist more than 4,000 families in Bicol, the Ilocos region and Batangas by providing shelter-grade tarpaulins, shelter repair kits and WASH kits.

Through USAID funding, the UN World Food Program also mobilized 92 trucks that supported the country's Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in delivering more than 150,000 family food packs and other relief items to Albay, Benguet, Camarines Sur, Ilocos Norte and La Union.

“This new assistance builds on the United States’ previous support to the Philippine government’s disaster response efforts, including during catastrophic flooding in Mindanao in February, Super Typhoon Carina in July and Super Typhoon Julian in October,” the US embassy said.

Since 2010, the embassy said the US government has provided more than P22 billion (\$393.6 million) in disaster relief, preparedness and early recovery in the Philippines.

The USAID said it works the entire year to help communities build resilience in preparing and responding to the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters.

Meanwhile, President Marcos has directed agencies to encourage local government units to use geohazard maps to mitigate the impact of natural disasters.

“I have ordered the Department of the Interior and Local Government and Department of Environment and Natural Resources to encourage local governments to use the geohazard map of the DENR Mines and Geosciences Bureau so it can serve as a guide for landslide-prone and flood-prone areas,” Marcos said yesterday.

The Chief Executive distributed more than P88 million worth of assistance to cyclone-affected farmers, fisherfolk and their families in Oriental Mindoro and Cavite.

Of the amount, P46.14 million was given to 4,546 beneficiaries in Oriental Mindoro while P42.33 million was turned over to 4,233 residents of Cavite.

Each beneficiary received P10,000.

The Department of Agriculture also handed out P24 million in indemnification to farmers in Mindoro.

Indemnity checks to insured farmers and fisherfolk were distributed by the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC).

Around 918 beneficiaries in Occidental Mindoro received a total of P16.046 million.

The PCIC allocated P8.684 million for 519 affected farmers in Oriental Mindoro.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said the compensation will help them recover from damage to crops, fishing equipment and other livelihood assets impacted by cyclones.

Interventions worth P261 million have been delivered in Mimaropa, the DA said. This includes financial assistance, hybrid rice seeds, hybrid and open-pollinated variety corn seeds, fertilizer discounts and hauling trucks.

QRF replenished

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has released P875 million to replenish the DSWD's quick response fund (QRF) for calamity and disaster relief operations.

As of end-October, the DSWD's available QRF balance reached below the 50-percent threshold, at P557.77 million or 31.87 percent of its current appropriations.

The QRF replenishment is intended for the procurement of family food packs and non-food items, for the stockpiling of relief resources at DSWD warehouses.

It will also be used to implement the agency's cash-for-work program for families affected by Julian in Ilocos.

First-response agencies are allocated QRFs in their annual budget. They may request replenishment from the DBM after their QRF reaches 50 percent or lower.

The DBM earlier said it is ready to tap contingent funds as the budget allocated for calamity response and disaster relief operations is almost depleted.

If contingent funds are insufficient, Pangandaman said the government can utilize unprogrammed appropriations.

Unprogrammed appropriations provide standby authority to incur additional agency obligations for priority programs or projects when revenue collection exceeds targets and when additional grants or foreign funds are generated.

Typhoon Nika

As of yesterday, 54,221 families or 216,077 people in Cagayan Valley were affected by the onslaught of Typhoon Nika, the DSWD said.

The number quadrupled from the 13,000 families recorded earlier.

Isabela tallied 37,341 families or 160,413 people from 497 barangays affected by Nika.

Cagayan recorded 14,077 families or 46,780 people from 208 barangays affected.

Quirino tallied 2,138 families or 6,648 people from 77 barangays, while Nueva Vizcaya recorded 665 families or 2,236 people from 69 barangays affected.

The DSWD's Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation had an initial distribution of P40,000 to typhoon victims in the region, according to DSWD Disaster Response Management Group Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao.

Around 11,782 family food packs amounting to P7.336 million, 765 non-food items worth P1.715 million and 1,116 bottled water totaling P72,216.36 were also distributed. – **Alexis Romero, Louise Maureen Simeon, Artemio Dumlao, Romina Cabrera**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/15/2400364/us-donates-p196-million-typhoon-victims>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Corn imports seen to ease to 1.5 million MT

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

November 15, 2024 | 12:00am



According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Philippines' corn imports in market year 2024-2025 (July-June) are expected to dip slightly from previous market year's 1.52 million MT.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines' corn imports are expected to drop slightly to 1.5 million metric tons in the current market year due to lower world corn shipments and weak recovery in production.

According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Philippines' corn imports in market year 2024-2025 (July-June) are expected to dip slightly from previous market year's 1.52 million MT.

“Lower world corn exports and a small recovery in production are moderating growth,” the USDA said in a recent global grain situation report.

The USDA said the Philippines' corn demand continues to grow due to higher use of corn feed by the livestock and poultry industries, as well as higher industrial use for snacks and starch.

Despite the growing demand for the grain, local corn production has been unable to catch up as farms have been hampered by pest infestations, typhoons and a lack of land in recent years, according to the USDA.

“In 2023/24, production was 8.1 million metric tons, the lowest volume since 2019/20. As a result, larger imports were necessary to meet domestic demand – reaching 16 percent of total supplies in 2023/24, versus 4 percent in 2019/20,” it said.

Since mid-2022, the government reduced and has maintained lower tariff rates on imported corn to plug the shortfall in domestic demand and keep the retail prices of various commodities like meat stable.

At present, the Philippines slaps a five percent tariff on corn imports within the minimum access volume or in-quota, while imports outside it or out-quota are levied with a 15 percent tariff. The lower tariff rates will be in effect until the end of 2028.

The corn tariffs will revert to their original rates of 35 percent (in-quota) and 50 percent (out-quota) beginning 2029 pursuant to President Marcos' Executive Order 62.

The USDA said that non-ASEAN corn exporters benefitted from the tariff cuts, effectively diversifying the Philippines' supply base for the commodity.

Non-ASEAN corn exporters are at a disadvantage against ASEAN producers since the latter enjoy a significantly lower tariff rate of five percent under the Asean Trade in Goods Agreement.

Prior to the tariff reduction, the Philippines sources virtually all its imported corn from the ASEAN region, the USDA said.

In market year 2022-23, the ASEAN fell to two thirds of the Philippines' market share after Brazil shipped more than 200,000 MT. By market year 2023-24, ASEAN accounted for only half of all the country's corn imports, with Argentina alone growing to 35 percent, according to the USDA.

“With corn tariffs reduced, overall imports surged by 56 percent in 2022/23 and 68 percent in 2023/24, with non-ASEAN exporters augmenting volumes,” the USDA said.

The country's top corn import sources are Argentina, Myanmar, Vietnam, Brazil and Pakistan, according to the USDA.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/11/15/2400172/corn-imports-seen-ease-15-million-mt>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA bans poultry products from Austria, Japan due to bird flu

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 11:30 AM November 14, 2024



INQUIRER FILES

The Department of Agriculture (DA) temporarily banned the entry of imported poultry sourced from Austria and Japan as they recorded bird flu cases.

Separately, the DA lifted the moratorium on sourcing poultry goods from Denmark as the European country is now free of avian influenza.

In separate memorandum orders, the DA said the temporary ban applies to the importation of domestic and wild birds and their products, including poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs and semen originating from Austria and Japan.

The DA immediately suspended the processing of applications and issuances of import clearances to these commodities.

Its veterinary quarantine officers or inspectors will stop and confiscate deliveries of the

Shipments from Japan that are in transit, loaded or accepted unto port before informing authorities of these bans are exempted, as long as the products were slaughtered or produced on or before Oct. 2.

The DA barred the entry of poultry imports from Austria and Japan after reporting an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Atsuma, Hokkaido in Japan in October and affecting domestic Birds.

The same animal disease also hit Mattighofen, Braunau am Inn, Oberösterreich in Austria last month affecting domestic birds. “There is a need to prevent the entry of HPAI virus to protect the health of the local poultry population,” the issuances read.

Meanwhile, the agency has allowed again the importation of poultry from Denmark nearly two years after imposing the ban as the risk of contamination from these commodities “is negligible.”

“All import transactions of the above commodities shall be in accordance with existing rules and regulations of the [DA],” it added.

Austria, Denmark and Japan are among the country’s major suppliers of imported meat.

In a separate statement on Wednesday, the DA said it is thoroughly assessing its existing rules to ease the shipment of chicken and hogs to address supply woes exacerbated by lingering animal health issues in time for the holidays.

The DA is consulting industry groups, specifically the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc., in carrying out a comprehensive review of regulations governing the transport of livestock products.

In a statement on Wednesday, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the extensive review “aims to ease supply bottlenecks for chicken and pork without compromising food safety.”

“It will also help manage expected demand spikes during the holiday season,” Tiu Laurel said.

One of the rules up for assessment is Administrative Order No. 5 issued in 2019 is one of the rules covering the delivery of animals, animal products and by-products across the country. It outlines special requirements and imposes strict timelines for obtaining transport permits to transport certain animals and products.

Another is Administrative Circular No. 2 promulgated in 2022, which modified the National Zoning and Movement Plan to curb the spread of African swine fever.

“We aim to streamline these processes and update safety measures to ensure stable supply and reasonable prices for pork, poultry, and other products, while safeguarding both public health and the livestock industry,” the DA chief added.

<https://business.inquirer.net/489981/da-bans-poultry-products-from-austria-japan-due-to-bird-flu>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA enhances loan programs to help farmers recover, boost production

By: [Marita Moaje](#) -

[Philippine News Agency](#) / 04:25 PM November 14, 2024



Department of Agriculture (DA) logo. INQUIRER FILES

MANILA, Philippines – The Department of Agriculture (DA) continues to enhance its loan programs to help farmers and fishers boost production, aid those affected by calamities, and encourage the youth to engage in farming.

In an interview over Radyo Pilipinas on Thursday, Executive Director of the DA Agricultural Credit Policy Council, Ma. Cristina Lopez, said various loan programs are available for farmers and fishers at low – or even zero – interest rates, especially in the aftermath of disasters.

These include the Agri-Negosyo Loan and the Survival and Calamity Loan Program for farmers affected by disasters, while refinancing options, including moratoriums, are available for those with existing loans.

“Meron tayong mga programa ng pagpapautang na ito dinadaan natin sa partner lending conduit. Ito ang mga banko at kooperatiba, kasama rin ang DBP (Development Bank of the Philippines) at Landbank (We have loan programs, which we course through our partner lending conduits. These are the banks and cooperatives, including DBP and Landbank),” she said.

Lopez said the Agri-Negosyo Loan offers loans of up to P300,000 with a subsidized interest rate of just 2 percent per annum.

She said this loan is available to farmers actively engaged in farming, even if they do not own the land they cultivate.

Farmers who do not own the land must only provide proof, such as a lease agreement or certification from their association or barangay that they are the ones tilling the land, to be eligible for the loan.

Lopez also noted that each household is entitled to only one loan but exemptions are in place for family members who cultivate separate farms, even though they live under one roof.

The Survival and Calamity Loan Program, meanwhile, is available to farmers or fishers affected by disasters, such as the recent string of tropical cyclones that hit several provinces in the country.

“Para sa mga may state of calamity, may declaration tayo sa lokalidad nila, meron tayong tinatawag na Survival and Calamity Loan Program. Walang interest ito, ang pwedeng mautang nila ay hanggang P25,000. Ito para maka-recover sila ulit at makapagtanim agad (For those in areas under a state of calamity, we have the Survival and Calamity Loan Program. It has no interest and they can borrow up to P25,000. This is to help them recover and immediately replant),” Lopez said.

Meanwhile, those who have existing loans but were affected by disasters may avail of a moratorium on loan repayment, which allows borrowers to postpone paying their principal for up to one year if their crops were destroyed.

Moreover, the DA has arranged with lending institutions to offer refinancing options for them.

Lopez said under the Agri-Negosyo and the Survival and Calamity Loan programs, the DA has already released PHP28 billion since 2017.

“Sa La Niña, nakapag-allocate tayo ng PHP500 million. Dito sa Kristine (international name Trami) pa lang meron tayong nasa pipeline, dun sa kakaayos lang ng kanilang submission ng request, nasa P147 million (For La Niña, we were able to allocate P500 million. For Kristine, we have about P147 million in the pipeline for those who have just submitted their requests),” she said.

The fund will be distributed through various channels, including cooperatives and rural banks, to provide financial relief to those in need.

Lopez said about 5,600 farmers from the affected provinces have expressed their intent to avail of the loan program, mostly from the Bicol region.

“Para sa moratorium, mga (For the moratorium, about) PHP167 million benefitting 1,100,” she added.

Young farmers

Meanwhile, the DA is also encouraging the youth to engage in agriculture, offering loans of up to PHP500,000 for young individuals seeking to go into farming, depending on their projects.

“Talagang hinihikayat natin ang mga kabataan na mag-engage sa agriculture. Meron tayong programa para sa kanila (We are encouraging our youth to engage in farming, we have a program for them),” Lopez said.

The program aims to make agricultural financing more accessible, even for newcomers who often encounter rejection when securing loans from traditional banks.

Interested individuals may avail of the various DA loan programs through their respective municipal agriculturists, who will endorse their applications to cooperatives, rural banks, and other partner banks.

Lopez also noted that the DA, through the municipal agriculturists, monitors those who availed of the program, ensuring proper use of the loan, by visiting them.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2004914/da-enhances-loan-programs-to-help-farmers-recover-boost-production>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Aurora suffers P45.6M in farm losses due to Typhoon Nika

By: [Joanna Rose Aglibot](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 06:41 PM November 14, 2024



WATER EVERYWHERE Floodwaters have inundated low-lying areas at Barangay Simbahan in Dinalungan, Aurora, as Typhoon “Nika” (international name: Toraji) sweeps through north and central Luzon on Monday. The typhoon made landfall in Dilasag town, also in Aurora, as it moved toward Isabela. —PHOTO COURTESY OF FR. JOEFRAN TALABAN

AURORA – Typhoon “Nika” (international name: Toraji) has caused agricultural damage in Aurora province amounting to P45,605,175.38, according to a report from the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (PDRRMC) on Thursday, Nov. 14.

The recent assessment identified corn and cassava as the hardest-hit crops, with losses totaling P26,962,040.

Rice crops suffered damage worth P9,682,887.38, followed by high-value crops at P8,324,315, fisheries at P792,000, and livestock losses amounting to P456,379.

Dilasag town, where Nika made landfall early this week, was most affected, along with the towns of Maria Aurora, Casiguran, Dinalungan and Baler.

PDRRMC data also indicated that 11,860 families, or 35,361 individuals across eight towns in Aurora, were impacted by the typhoon.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2004951/aurora-suffers-p45-6m-in-farm-losses-due-to-typhoon-nika>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Inflation seen within target until 2026

November 15, 2024 | 12:34 am



The headline inflation rate picked up to 2.3% in October from 1.9% in September. — PHILIPPINE STAR/EDD GUMBAN

PRIVATE SECTOR ANALYSTS surveyed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) still expect headline inflation to remain within the 2-4% target band until 2026.

In its Monetary Policy Report from its October meeting, the central bank said that economists' inflation expectations "remain well-anchored."

The BSP's survey of external forecasters for October showed that the mean inflation forecasts for 2024 and 2026 were unchanged at 3.4% and 3.2%, respectively, compared with September forecasts.

Meanwhile, the mean inflation forecast for 2025 was trimmed to 3% from 3.1% previously.

"Analysts consider the inflation risks to be broadly balanced, with headline inflation expected to remain low and within-target over the policy horizon," the BSP said.

The BSP's baseline forecasts see inflation settling at 3.1% this year, 3.2% in 2025 and 3.4% in 2026.

Headline inflation picked up to 2.3% in October, bringing the 10-month average to 3.3%.

The central bank said that the balance of risks to the inflation outlook for 2025 and 2026 shifted to the upside but will likely continue to remain within target.

"Inflation is expected to settle near the low end of the target band due to the impact of reduced tariffs on rice imports," it said.

An executive order that slashed tariffs on rice imports to 15% from 35% until 2028 took effect in July.

"However, by the second half of 2025, inflation could rise toward the upper end of the target range, largely due to positive base effects," it added.

It also noted that the upside risks are mainly due to “potential adjustments in electricity rates and higher minimum wages in regions outside Metro Manila.”

“Meanwhile, downside risks continue to be linked to the impact of lower import tariffs on rice,” the central bank said.

“Nevertheless, after incorporating the impact of these risks at their assigned probabilities, the risk-adjusted inflation forecasts remain within the 2-4% target range over the policy horizon.”

The BSP said the inflation outlook and inflation expectations allow it to adopt a “less restrictive monetary policy” stance.

“Nonetheless, the monetary authority will continue to closely monitor the emerging upside risks to inflation, including geopolitical factors.”

The Monetary Board is set to have its last policy review for the year on Dec. 19. BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. has said it is possible to deliver a 25-basis-point (bp) rate cut at the meeting.

The central bank has reduced interest rates by a total of 50 bps since August or when the BSP kicked off its cutting cycle.

GROWTH

Meanwhile, the BSP expects gross domestic product (GDP) growth to remain resilient.

“The Monetary Board also expects domestic economic growth to continue to be strong,” it said.

“This reflects improved prospects for household income and consumption, investments, and government spending, which are supported by the start of the monetary easing cycle in August and the announced reduction in reserve requirements in October.”

In the nine-month period, GDP averaged 5.8%. To meet the lower end of the government’s 6-7% goal, the economy must grow by at least 6.5% in the fourth quarter.

“This outlook is supported by the policy interest rate reduction in August and the reduction in reserve requirements in October,” the BSP said.

“The forecast is consistent with the small negative output gap in 2024 and 2025, which is expected to turn positive in 2026. The steady upturn in the output gap reflects improved prospects for household consumption, investments, and government spending.” — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2024/11/15/635071/inflation-seen-within-target-until-2026/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

German chamber says PHL must deal urgently with bird flu crisis

November 14, 2024 | 9:28 pm



REUTERS

THE German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (GPCCI) said preventive measures are urgently needed to address avian influenza (AI), which it called a threat to food security in the Philippines.

“Avian influenza remains a significant challenge for food security and the poultry industry in the Philippines,” GPCCI said in a statement dated Nov. 12.

“Recent avian influenza cases have underscored the urgent need for comprehensive preventive measures, with ongoing government surveillance and biosecurity updates,” it added.

Asked for detailed recommendations, the chamber called for the streamlining of the approval process for avian influenza vaccines “to address the urgent need for effective protection against this disease, as there is no AI vaccine yet that is registered and authorized for use,” it said.

As of Nov. 4, the Bureau of Animal Industry said seven provinces are currently affected by avian influenza.

It also cited a single ongoing case in San Luis, Pampanga, featuring the avian influenza subtype H5N1.

On Oct. 29, the GPCCI and Boehringer Ingelheim Philippines hosted a roundtable discussion with Philippine agriculture agencies on avian influenza.

“GPCCI is honored to have created this platform for discussion, enabling the alignment of government, industry, and academic communities in addressing a critical and timely issue,” according to Christopher Zimmer, executive director of GPCCI.

“We hope to advance sustainable solutions that protect not only the poultry sector but also public health and the food security of millions,” he added.

Germany is among the Philippines’ top sources of meat, particularly beef. As of August, the Philippines imported 2.4 million kilograms of beef cuts and offal from Germany. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/11/14/635106/german-chamber-says-phl-must-deal-urgently-with-bird-flu-crisis/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Fisheries output drops 5% in Q3

November 14, 2024 | 9:28 pm



PHILSTAR FILE PHOTO

FISHERIES production fell 5.1% year on year in the third quarter, with declines reported across all segments of the industry, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

In its quarterly fisheries report, the PSA said production declined to 965,751 metric tons (MT) during the period.

“Decreases in production were noted in all subsectors, namely, commercial, marine municipal fisheries, inland municipal fisheries, and aquaculture,” the PSA added.

It added aquaculture output fell 2.8% to 512,472 MT. The segment accounted for 53.1% of fisheries production.

Commercial fisheries production declined 8.4% year on year to 210,854 MT. It accounted for 21.8% of overall fisheries output.

Marine municipal fisheries, which accounted for 20.3% of overall output, declined 5.4% to 196,125 MT.

Inland municipal fisheries production declined 12.2% to 46,263 MT. Its output was equivalent to 4.8% of overall fisheries production.

The PSA added that of the 21 major fish species, round scad (*galunggong*) production fell 17.2%, big-eyed scad (*matangbaka*) output fell 23.0%, milkfish (*bangus*) output fell 6.9%, seaweed declined 1.5%, and yellowfin tuna (*tambakol*) fell 18.6%.

Output grew for skipjack (18.9%), P. Vannamei shrimp (19.4%), bigeye tuna (40.1%), blue crab (9.5%), and threadfin bream (7.2%). — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/11/14/635105/fisheries-output-drops-5-in-q3/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Releases from 2024 budget hit P5.93 trillion

November 14, 2024 | 9:26 pm



THE Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said on Thursday that releases from the 2024 budget hit P5.93 trillion at the end of October, exceeding programmed allocations by P164.08 billion.

In its Status of Allotment Releases report posted on Thursday, the DBM said the releases as of October were 2.84% higher than the P5.768-trillion programmed budget for 2024. The release rate a year earlier had been 95.8% .

As of the end of October, government departments received P3.44 trillion, while P436.65 billion was released for Special Purpose Funds. Automatic appropriations released totaled P1.66 trillion, including P70.46 billion for government agencies' retirement and life insurance premiums, P871.38 billion for the National Tax Allotment, and P70.51 billion for the Block Grant.

The unprogrammed appropriations include the Department of Agriculture's P17.63 billion, the Department of Public Works and Highways' P7.42 billion, the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) P11.89 billion, and the National Economic and Development Authority's P3.63 billion. Some P40.57 billion in unprogrammed appropriations went to strengthening assistance for government infrastructure and social programs. Support to foreign-assisted projects amounted to P123.79 billion.

Meanwhile, calamity funds amounting to P20.34 billion were also released as of Oct. 30, according to the DBM.

Among government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), P450 million was allocated to the National Irrigation Authority, P49.94 million to the National Housing Authority, and P20.2 million to the Local Water Utilities Administration.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/11/14/635100/releases-from-2024-budget-hit-p5-93-trillion/>

REMATE:

Presyo ng bigas sa Rice-for-All program binabaan pa

November 14, 2024 13:37



MANILA, Philippines – Inanunsyo ng Department of Agriculture (DA) nitong Miyerkules ang pagbaba ng presyo ng bigas na ibinebenta sa ilalim ng Rice-for-All program sa PHP42 kada kilo mula PHP43.

Sinabi ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., ang pagbawas sa presyo sa kamakailang pagbaba ng taripa sa imported na bigas at pagbaba ng presyo ng bigas sa buong mundo.

“Mas malaki sana ang pagbawas kung hindi dahil sa epekto ng pagbaba ng piso sa PHP58 tungo sa isang US dollar mula sa PHP48 sa simula ng taon,” aniya.

Gayunpaman, binanggit niya na ang mga karagdagang pagsasaayos sa presyo ng Rice-for-All ay maaaring posible, depende sa mga trend ng presyo sa mundo at sa piso-dollar na halaga ng palitan.

Ang programang Rice-for-All ay naa-access ng lahat ng mga mamimili, na walang limitasyon sa pagbili, hindi tulad ng PHP29 kada kilo ng bigas, na nakalaan lamang para sa mga mahihinang grupo, kabilang ang mga senior citizen, taong may kapansanan, solong magulang, at mga pamilyang mababa ang kita, na may buwanang takip na 10 kilo bawat benepisyaryo.

Ang pagbawas sa presyo ay kasunod ng desisyon ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. na bawasan ang taripa sa inangat na bigas mula 35 porsiyento hanggang 15 porsiyento, epektibo sa Hulyo, sa hangarin na mapababa ang halaga ng bigas.

Ang bigas ay nananatiling pangunahing pagkain sa bansa kung saan ang karaniwang paggasta ng mga mamimili ay humigit-kumulang 10 porsiyento ng kanilang badyet sa bigas.

Para sa mga sambahayan na may mababang kita, lalo na sa mga komunidad ng pagsasaka at pangangisda sa kanayunan, ang paggasta sa bigas ay maaaring umabot ng hanggang 20 porsiyento ng kanilang badyet.

Ang pagbaba ng presyo ng DA ay inaasahang magbibigay ng kaluwagan sa mga mamimili sa buong bansa, na sumusuporta sa mga pagsisikap na matiyak ang access sa abot-kayang bigas para sa lahat ng sambahayang Pilipino. *Santi Celario*

<https://remate.ph/presyo-ng-bigas-sa-rice-for-all-program-binabaan-pa/>

ABANTE:

Siling labuyo sumipa presyo sa P600 kada kilo

Abante News

- **November 14, 2024**



Lumobo ang presyo ng siling labuyo sa P600 kada kilo, ayon sa monitoring ng Department of Agriculture (DA).

Noong nakaraang linggo lamang, nasa P550 kada kilo ang presyo nito.

Ayon sa DA, ang pa-ngunahing dahilan ng pagtaas ng presyo ng si-ling labuyo ay ang magkakasunod na bagyong tumama sa bansa sa mga nagdaang linggo.

Pinaka-naapektuhan ng mga nagdaang bagyo ang Northern Luzon at inaasahan na tatama na naman ang Super Typhoon Ofel sa nasabing lugar.

Sa kabila nito, tiniyak ng DA na hindi magkakaroon ng kakulangan sa mga produktong agrikultura dahil aagapan nila ito sa pamamagitan ng importasyon. (Migo Fajatin)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/11/14/siling-labuyo-sumipa-presyo-sa-p600-kada-kilo/>

5K typhoon-hit farmers, fisherfolk in Oriental Mindoro get gov't aid

Thursday, November 14, 2024 Journal Online



Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Rex Gatchalian assists President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr during the distribution of the Presidential Assistance to Farmers, Fisherfolk and their Families (PAFFF) on Thursday (November 14) in Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro.

Approximately 5,000 farmers and fisherfolk who were affected by the series of typhoons that hit the country are expected to receive cash assistance from the government.

Aside from Secretary Gatchalian, Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francis Tiu Laurel Jr., Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Juanito Victor Remulla, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Secretary Cesar Chavez, and top local officials joined the Chief Executive in the aid-giving.

PBBM, DSWD chief give aid to typhoon-hit farmers, fisherfolk in Oriental Mindoro, Cavite

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Rex Gatchalian led the distribution of government aid in Oriental Mindoro on Thursday (November 14) through the Presidential Assistance to Farmers, Fisherfolk, and their Families (PAFFF).

“Mga kababayan, ang pamamahagi ng tulong na ito ay tanda ng ating panata sa isa’t isa—na kahit anong mangyari, tayo ay laging magtutulongan... Makakaasa kayo na ang pamahalaan ay narito para matulungan kayo na makabangon sa mga ganitong pagsubok,” President Marcos said during the aid-giving at the ABADA College in Pinamalayan town Oriental Mindoro.

Some 5,000 farmers, fisherfolk, and their families from the province are expected to receive Php10,000 each during the aid distribution in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclones Kristine and Leon.

In his speech, Secretary Gatchalian assured the beneficiaries that no one would be left behind and that the agency would continue to provide them with the necessary assistance until they have fully recovered from the impact of the series of disasters.

“Makaasa po kayo na ang DSWD ay handang tumulong, kaagapay ninyo, at sisiguraduhin na sama-sama tayong babangon muli,” Secretary Gatchalian said.

After the aid-giving in Oriental Mindoro, the Presidential team proceeded to the Tagaytay International Convention Center in Tagaytay City for a similar activity. Another 3,900 beneficiaries from the province of Cavite will receive the same amount during the aid distribution in the province.

“Hinihikayat ko kayong lahat na maging matatag, magtulungan po kayo, at huwag mawalan ng pag-asa dahil ang pamahalaan ay kasama ninyo sa bawat hakbang ng inyong pagbangon,” the President said as he addressed the Caviteños during the cash aid payout.

President Marcos and Secretary Gatchalian were joined by Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francis Tiu Laurel Jr., Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Juanito Victor Remulla, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Secretary Cesar Chavez, and prominent local officials during the aid-giving ceremonies.

https://journal.com.ph/5k-typhoon-hit-farmers-fisherfolk-in-oriental-mindoro-get-govt-aid/#goog_rewarded

MANILA STANDARD:

‘Ofel’ pummels disaster-hit north Luzon



AYUDA REDUX. President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. hands a check over to a beneficiary during his visit yesterday to Oriental Mindoro where he distributed financial assistance to farmers, fishermen, and families affected by typhoons Kristine and Leon in Oriental Mindoro. Below photo shows Storm Nika heading towards Vietnam while typhoon Ofel is on its way out of the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

By [Rio N. Araja](#), [Rex Espiritu](#), [Vito Barcelo](#) & [Vince Lopez](#)

November 15, 2024, 12:50 am

‘Pepito,’ sixth typhoon in three weeks, threatens Luzon, Visayas—PAGASA

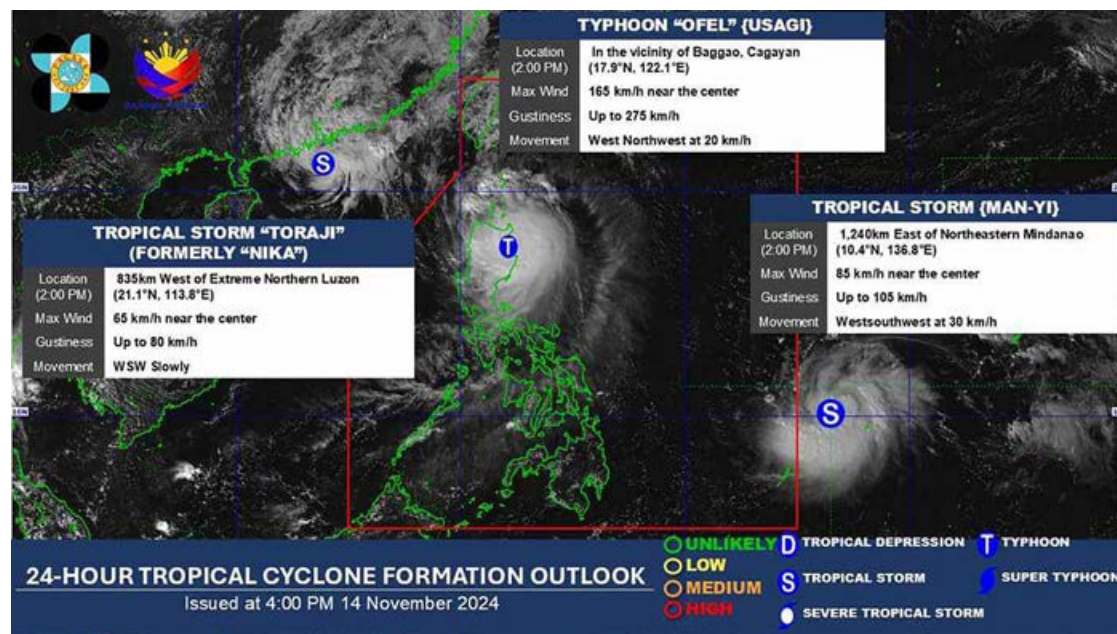
After three successive typhoons barreled across the country in the past two weeks, two consecutive storms—”Nika” and Super Typhoon “Ofel” —left P1.3 billion in infrastructure damage and displaced 309,518 individuals this week.

A third one—to be called “Pepito” once it enters the Philippine area of responsibility—is expected to bring significant rainfall in Southern Luzon, Central Luzon and Eastern Visayas over the weekend, prompting the Bicol region to evacuate residents, the Office of the Civil Defense said.

“Ofel,” the fifth storm to threaten the country in just three weeks, smashed into the already battered northern Luzon.

It weakened over mainland Cagayan, where the highest storm signal was raised earlier in the day, while continuing to threaten Babuyan Islands Thursday afternoon.

“Evacuations are ongoing” in coastal and low-lying areas of Cagayan province, local civil defense chief Rueli Rapsing said.



He said local governments are expected to take 40,000 people to shelters, roughly the same number that were preemptively evacuated ahead of Typhoon Marce, which struck Cagayan’s north coast earlier this month.

He said more than 5,000 Cagayan residents were still in shelters following the previous storms.

This was because the Cagayan river, the country’s largest, remained swollen from heavy rain that fell in several provinces upstream, flooding communities downstream.

“We expect this situation to persist over the next few days,” Rapsing said.

Tropical cyclone wind signal no. 4 remained raised over Babuyan Islands and the northern and eastern portions of mainland Cagayan.

The state weather bureau also warned one to two more tropical cyclones may enter the PAR in December amid the “developing” La Niña phenomenon.

“Our forecast is that we expect one or two cyclones in December. And then in the first quarter, there are also one to two cyclones,” PAGASA deputy administrator for research Marcelino Villafuerte said.

The brutal wave of weather disturbances—beginning with “Kristine,” “Leon,” and “Marce”—has already killed 159 people, mostly from “Kristine.”

This prompted the United Nations to request \$32.9 million in aid for the worst-affected regions.

“Typhoons are overlapping. As soon as communities attempt to recover from the shock, the next tropical storm is already hitting them again,” UN Philippines Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Gustavo Gonzalez said.

“In this context, the response capacity gets exhausted and budgets depleted.”

Nearly P1 billion in infrastructures, including roads and bridges were destroyed by the combined tropical cyclones “Nika” and “Ofel.”

Nine major roads in the Cordillera region and in Cagayan province remained impassable to all types of vehicles due to floods and debris from falling rocks. **With AFP**

<https://manilastandard.net/news/314523602/ofel-pummels-disaster-hit-north-luzon.html>

THE MANILA TIMES:

350 Tuburan farmers benefit from forum

By Kaiser Jan Fuentes

November 15, 2024

CEBU CITY — At least 350 farmers from Tuburan, Cebu, attended the 2024 Post-State of the Nation Address (SONA) Forum on Friday, Nov. 8, and received essential services and guidance aimed at boosting their knowledge on agriculture and tourism.

Tuburan, known as Cebu's coffee capital and home to the Tuburan Coffee brand, conducted the forum in its bid to transform its agricultural sector into a sustainable tourism attraction, highlight the local products while preserving its cultural heritage.

The forum, with the theme "Cultivating Agriculture for Tourism Development and Opportunities under a New Philippines," was the third post-SONA event held in the country, following similar forums in Oriental Mindoro and Sultan Kudarat.

Mayor Democrito "Aljun" Diamante thanked the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) Central Visayas for selecting Tuburan as the venue, and the town's farmers got valuable knowledge from the forum.

Diamante explained that various programs, including infrastructure investments, training, and inter-agency partnerships, are already in place to support the agricultural community and promote local growth.

He described the event as a meaningful "convergence" of government support, with agencies working together to benefit the town's residents.

PIA Director General Katherine Chloe de Castro attended the event and acknowledged the forum's impact on Tuburan.

She said that the event had brought much-needed government services closer to the community.

Several agencies participated in the forum's service caravan, offering vital support to Tuburan's residents.

The Department of Agriculture's regional offices distributed seedlings, while the Department of Social Welfare and Development provided P2.2 million in assistance to six Tuburan associations.

The funding supported projects in general merchandise, mushroom and poultry production, and tilapia farming. This aid reached residents in Barangays Cogon, Gimama-a, Montealegre, Colonia, and Caridad.

In addition, 350 coffee farmers received P3,000 each through the AKAP program.

The Department of Health provided free pneumococcal and flu vaccines, while the National Irrigation Authority (NIA) offered discounted rice at P29 per kilo to vulnerable groups.

Renan Geraldez, institutional development officer at NIA, told The Manila Times that indigent residents, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities were eligible to purchase the P29-BBM (Bagong Bayaning Magsasaka) rice.

He assured that, while priced affordably, the rice maintains good quality and is designed to support local farmers by offering consumers an affordable option.

The Philippine Statistics Authority, Department of Science and Technology, PAG-IBIG Fund, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Trade and Industry, and the National Bureau of Investigation, also extended their services to the residents of Tuburan.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/15/regions/350-tuburan-farmers-benefit-from-forum/2004806>

THE MANILA TIMES:

DA bans poultry from Japan, Austria

By Janine Alexis Miguel

November 15, 2024

THE Department Agriculture (DA) on November 12 imposed a temporary ban on the importation of poultry products from Japan and Austria, following outbreaks of avian influenza or bird flu in both countries.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the ban was necessary to prevent the spread of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), particularly the H5N1 subtype, and protect the local poultry population.

In its memorandum order, the DA said an outbreak of the bird disease in Atsuma, Hokkaido, Japan was reported on Oct. 16, and confirmed by the Livestock Hygiene Service Center.

The ban covers domestic and wild birds and their products from Japan, including poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs, and semen. The order also called for the immediate suspension of the processing, evaluation of the application, and issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) import clearances to the aforementioned commodities.

Poultry shipments from Japan already in transit before Oct. 2 were allowed to enter the Philippines.

A separate order issued on Nov. 12 likewise ordered a temporary ban on poultry products originating from Austria. According to the Vice President of the Regional Commission of Austria to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), a bird flu outbreak in October was reported in Mattighofen, Braunau am Inn, Oberösterreich, Austria and was confirmed by the Agency for Health and Food Safety.

Austria and Japan are both meat traders to the Philippines. However, data from DA's Bureau of Animal Industry showed these countries have not shipped any poultry meat here since the year started.

Denmark import ban lifted

In another order, the DA lifted the import ban on domestic and wild birds, as well as their products, originating from Denmark.

Tiu Laurel revoked the ban through memorandum order 50, allowing the entry of domestic and wild birds, poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs, and semen from Denmark to the Philippines.

The DA said Danish veterinary authorities reported to the WOAHA that cases of HPAI in their country has been resolved, and no new cases have been reported after Sept. 12. The order, which takes effect immediately, emphasized all import transactions must adhere to DA rules and regulations pertaining to agricultural food imports.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/15/business/top-business/da-bans-poultry-from-japan-austria/2004825>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Guru of agricultural economics

By Dr. Fermin D. Adriano, PhD

November 15, 2024

IN the academic world, the late Gelia Castillo is considered the "queen" of rural sociology. Her extensive work on analyzing the dynamics of rural society made a lasting impact on our knowledge of rural folk.

In agricultural economics, the uncontested guru in the country is Cristina David. Her insightful analyses of how the process of agricultural development is triggered and promoted have enriched our knowledge of the Philippine agricultural economy. I am lucky, proud and privileged, together with my wife, Lourdes, to have been mentored by these two great women of UP Los Baños early in our careers. But we are not alone as a generation of young scholars benefited from their mentorship as they generously shared and passed on their wisdom to us.

Last Nov. 6, we held a festschrift (celebratory publication of writings) in honor of David. The event was jointly sponsored by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture and the UN Development Program. Preparations for the event were held in strict confidentiality as it was meant to be a surprise tribute.

Those who attended were a "who's who" list in the field of agricultural economics, both here and abroad, clearly manifesting the extensive intellectual influence and legacy of David. Among the local experts who participated were the present National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, who gave a summary of David's works expanding four decades, and former NEDA secretary Cielito Habito.

Also present were Aniceto Orbeta, PIDS president; Roehl Briones, senior fellow of PIDS; Arlene Inocencio, economics professor at De La Salle University; Majah-Leah Ravago, Development Academy of the Philippines president; Mario Lamberte, former PIDS president; Karl Jandoc, chairman of the Department of Economics; Liborio Cabanilla, former dean of the College of Economics and Management, UPLB; Lourdes Adriano, former ADB advisor; myself, former vice-chancellor of UPLB; and many more that I cannot enumerate due to space constraints.

As for the foreign experts in the field of agricultural economics, in attendance were Keijiro Otsuka of Kobe University and formerly of the International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington; Jikun Huang, director of the China Center for Agricultural Policy; James Roumasset of the University of Hawaii; Justin Lin, professor and dean of Peking University; Kym Anderson,

professor of economics at the University of Adelaide and Australian National University; and Pavit Ramachandran, country director of the ADB for the Philippines.

Otsuka and Huang served as the main speakers in the event. The former discussed the topic "Rice Green Revolution in Asia and Africa" while the latter dwelt on the issue of "Rural Transformation in China and Other Developing Countries." David served as advisor for both Otsuka and Huang in their doctoral dissertations.

David's early works expounded on the trigger and causes of agricultural development in the Philippines, particularly that of the rice sector. Thus, Otsuka's presentation touched on the key lessons derived in boosting rice productivity in Asia. He mentioned that the two factors that played a critical role in significantly raising palay productivity in the Philippines were the introduction of "miracle" (hybrid) seeds and the application of fertilizers in favorable areas (presence of irrigation). The same factors seem to be in operation in Africa's rice lands.

However, he argued that a more sustainable way of increasing productivity was by increasing investments in research and development combined with the introduction of modern farm technology.

Huang, meanwhile, gave a comprehensive presentation of the dynamics of the structural transformation of China's agricultural sector. He is the best person to expound on this since he is considered as one of the architects of this agricultural transformation in China.

Huang provided a simple formula for the transformation process: IPI, which stands for "institution, policy and investment." He argued that the process of reform and development could not properly proceed without the proper institutions to guide the transformation. This means that good governance is indispensable and this can only be attained if the bureaucracy is manned by highly qualified managers and scientists.

The absence of good governance will deprive the system of the correct policy directions to take. With a flawed policy framework, investments might pour in but allocated in the wrong priorities or activities.

He noted that the features of a successful agricultural transformation were: agricultural productivity that surpasses population growth rate; a shift to the cultivation of high-value crops; a significant increase in farmers income due to the crop shifts; and greater demand for the use of modern farming technology that is not seen as labor-displacing but as a means of attaining greater efficiency and productivity.

What was depressing was when Huang shared his slides on the agricultural performance of other developing countries in the region. He characterized the Philippines, together with Bangladesh and Pakistan, as having exhibited the slowest and lowest agricultural transformation during the last

As for Lin, regarded as one of the architects of neo-structuralism (a school of thought that emphasizes the crucial role of the state in the development process, contrary to the neoclassicist prescription of allowing the free market to determine resource allocation), he reiterated his thesis that the proper role of government was to support and invest in activities where the country had a comparative advantage. By doing this, this would lead to sustained, higher and accelerated growth for the country.

The reunion of experts in the field of agricultural economics undeniably revealed that we are not short of ideas that will trigger and promote Philippine agricultural development. What is missing are leaders who understand the dynamics of the agricultural economy, both domestic and international. Leaders who have the guts to do what is right in the face of powerful vested interest groups in the sector whose main agenda is to promote their self-interest regardless of the adverse impact on the overall economy and the millions of Filipino consumers.

It was glaringly clear in the presentation of Huang that the Philippine agricultural sector does not have the appropriate institution to promote its development. Good governance is missing. Top-notch scientists and analysts are not hired nor their opinions sought because of fear that they might just upset the existing status quo.

During the time of Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr., when agriculture was under the leadership of Arturo Tanco, the latter created an office — unknown to many — of top-notch agricultural scientists to advise him on the proper direction and activities to promote the growth of the sector. Tanco humbly declared that while he knew management and operations, he needed the experts' help in determining whether proposed programs and projects were technically and economically viable. The successful "Masagana 99" rice production program in the 1970s was a product of the close collaboration with good managers and top-notch scientists. Unfortunately, we do not have the benefit of such a collaboration in our current agricultural system.

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<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/15/business/top-business/guru-of-agricultural-economics/2004814>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Fisheries production down by 5.1% in Q3

Ada Pelonia

November 15, 2024

FISHERIES output declined by 5.1 percent in the third quarter of the year, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported on Thursday.

Data from the PSA showed that the total volume of fisheries production from July to September 2024 was 965,715 metric tons (MT), lower than the 1.02 million metric tons (MMT) recorded in the same quarter of the previous year.

“Decreases in production were noted in all subsectors, namely, commercial, marine municipal fisheries, inland municipal fisheries, and aquaculture,” the PSA said in its latest fisheries situation report.

The production of commercial fisheries slid by 8.4 percent to 210,850 MT from the previous year’s 230,190 MT. The subsector’s share accounted for 21.8 percent of the total output.

The PSA said marine municipal fisheries dropped by 5.4 percent to 196,130 MT in the reference period from the 207,210 MT recorded last year. This accounted for 20.3 percent of the total fisheries production.

The PSA said inland municipal fisheries production fell by 12.2 percent to 46,260 MT from the 52,690 MT recorded in the same period last year. It accounted for 4.8 percent of the total output.

Aquaculture production declined by 2.8 percent to 512,470 MT from the previous year’s 527,150 MT. The subsector constituted the highest share of the total fisheries output in the quarter at 53.1 percent.

The PSA said that of the 21 major species, reductions were noted in roundscad (galunggong) down 17.2 percent to 39,952 MT; big-eyed scad (matangbaka), 23 percent

to 25,353 MT; milkfish (bangus), 6.9 percent to 82,158 MT; seaweed, 1.5 percent to 363,258 MT; and yellowfin tuna, 18.6 percent to 23,225 MT.

Output gains were reported in skipjack (gulyasan), up 18.9 percent to 62,327 MT; P. Vannamei (putian), 19.4 percent to 11,415 MT; bigeye tuna, 40.1 percent to 5,007 MT; blue crab (alimasag), 9.5 percent to 5,475 MT; and threadfin bim (bisugo), 7.2 percent to 7,528 MT.

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 reference period, according to data from the PSA.

Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture (DA) earlier authorized the importation of 30,000 MT of pelagic fish to augment supply during the closed fishing season.

The three-month closed fishing season starts November 1 in waters northeast of Palawan and from November 15 in the Visayan Seas and Zamboanga Peninsula. All three areas are spawning grounds for small pelagic fishes like sardines and mackerel.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/15/fisheries-production-down-by-5-1-in-q3/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

PSA notes slight drop in farmgate palay prices

Ada Pelonia
November 14, 2024



A resident of Barangay Burgos in Pakil, Laguna, checks on a palay farm in Estaca port, ready for harvest in the next three months, embodying hope for a fruitful yield despite challenging conditions.

Local traders purchased unmilled rice at a slightly lower price in October, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

The average quotation for palay dipped by 0.4 percent to P20.51 per kilo in October from P20.60 per kilo last year.

“Farmgate prices refer to the prices received by farmers for the sale of their produce at the first point of sale net of the total marketing cost paid by the farmers,” the PSA explained.

“These prices are determined at the farmgate or first point of sale transactions and are also known as ‘producer prices’.”

On a monthly basis, the average farmgate price of palay in October declined by 8.2 percent from P22.33 per kilo recorded in September.

PSA data showed that the highest increase was observed in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), where the average prices registered a year-on-year growth of 39.3 percent.

The average palay farmgate price in BARMM reached P24.18 per kilo in October, higher than the previous year's P17.36 per kilo.

This was followed by Central Visayas which recorded a 19.9 percent growth to P24.30 per kilo in October from P20.27 per kilo in the same period last year.

Meanwhile, agricultural groups urged the government to revert to the previous tariff levied on key agricultural commodities when it conducts its periodic review and boost local production.

According to SINAG Executive Director Jayson Cainglet, however, the framework and parameters for the review of Executive Order (EO) 62, particularly for rice, should hinge on a few factors.

This includes the production cost of farmers which currently stands at P16 to P17 per kilo, the farmgate price of palay, and the actual retail price of rice notwithstanding the increase or decrease of inflation.

“As it is, the farmgate price of palay went down faster than the retail prices of rice,” Cainglet told the BusinessMirror, partly in Filipino.

He noted that from the P26-P30 per kilo farmgate prior to the issuance of EO 62, prices dropped to P16-P17 per kilo for fresh or wet palay and P20-P22 per kilo for clean and dry palay.

“A big drop between P5-P10 per kilo farmgate of palay is a major concern,” Cainglet said.

“We are yet to approach peak harvest, there is concern that the farmgate price of palay will plunge even further.”

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/14/psa-notes-slight-drop-in-farmgate-palay-prices/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Rice plantations grew 3.36% as of October – PhilMech

BusinessMirror
November 15, 2024

The Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) said the mechanization level of local rice plantations grew by 3.36 percent as of October.

According to PhilMech, the mechanization level rose to 2.77 horsepower per hectare (hp/ha) last month from the 2.68 hp/ha recorded in 2022. The RCEF [Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund] Mechanization Program contributed

greatly to the attainment of the improved mechanization level of 2.77 hp/ha for rice farms across the country, PhilMech Director Dionisio Alvindia said in a statement.

“With the completion of the first phase of the RCEF-Mechanization Program by June next year, and the proposed extension of the program, we are confident that the mechanization level 3 hp/ha will be attained for rice farms in the country,” said.

“PhilMech said it has distributed 29,583 units of farm production machinery and postharvest technologies under the RCEF-Mechanization Program. This accounted for 95.15 percent of the agency’s target distribution of 30,100 units, which can cover about 14 percent of rice farms. With those latest figures, we at PHilMech are confident that the agency can attain the target of

30,100 units distributed before June next year, “Alvindia said. “And that is a result of the hard work and dedication of the officers and personnel of the agency, as well as the support of local government units and farm machine suppliers.”

PhilMech said among the machinery provided by the program were rice combine harvesters and four-wheel tractors, which accounted for the 52 percent and 29 percent increase in power, respectively.

With this, the agency backed the extension of the mechanization program by another six years with a proposed funding of P9 billion annually.

According to Alvindia, with this extension and funding, the proposed second phase of the can cover up to 30 percent more rice farms, which will result in around 44 percent mechanization coverage for rice farms nationwide by 2031.

He added that a 44-percent mechanization coverage for the country rice farms will make the cultivation of rice “more competitive”, which could lessen the country’s need for imports.

Meanwhile, the agency said it will also focus on providing more rice processing centers with modern drying and milling machines.

It added that this would enable more farmers cooperatives and associations (FCAs) and local government units (LGUs) to enter the rice value chain.

“By having modern drying and milling machines, FCAs and LGUs can directly market their milled rice at the retail level, or to big institutions. This will help increase their earnings as they no longer have to rely on middle men and outside milling services,” Alvindia said.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/15/rice-plantations-grew-3-36-as-of-october-philmec/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Crop insurer indemnifies farmers, fishers in Mindoro

Ada Pelonia
November 15, 2024

THE Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC) issued indemnification checks worth P24.73 million to farmers and fishers from Oriental and Occidental Mindoro as compensation for the damage brought by recent typhoons.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. led the distribution of the indemnity checks to 1,437 insured farmers.

“The timely release of these indemnity payments is part of government’s commitment to immediately provide assistance to farmers and fisherfolk who suffered due to typhoons,” Laurel said.

According to the PCIC, P16.046 million was given to 918 beneficiaries in Occidental Mindoro, while P8.684 million was allocated to 519 affected farmers and fisherfolk in Oriental Mindoro.

The government insurer added that the compensation could aid in their recovery from the typhoon’s damage to crops, fishing equipment, and other livelihood assets impacted by the storms.

“PCIC’s swift action follows the series of typhoons that battered the provinces in recent weeks. The storms caused widespread destruction in areas that heavily depend on agriculture and fishing for economic survival. The indemnity checks provide critical financial relief for farmers and fisherfolk.”

The agency stressed the critical role of crop insurance, particularly in regions prone to natural disasters like Mindoro.

It encouraged farmers and fisherfolk to enroll in the program to “safeguard their livelihood against future calamities.”

According to the Department of Agriculture (DA), it also delivered P261-million worth of interventions to the farm sector. These included financial assistance, hybrid rice seeds, hybrid and OPV (open-pollinated variety) corn seeds, fertilizer discount, and hauling trucks.

Meanwhile, the PCIC earlier issued P24.4-million worth of indemnity checks to 2,644 farmers from Bicol, which was one of the regions most affected by typhoon Kristine.

PCIC President Jovy C. Bernabe said the crop insurer distributed the checks in line with the “government’s commitment to support the farmers in the countryside by providing insurance protection and financial assistance through indemnities to help farmers recover from setbacks and continue to contribute to the country’s food security and economic growth.”

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/15/crop-insurer-indemnifies-farmers-fishers-in-mindoro/>

ABANTE TONITE:

Agri chief inutos import ban vs manok galing Austria, Japan

Pinahaharang ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang pag-angkat ng manok at iba pang mga ibon at poultry products mula Austria at Japan kung saan nagkaroon ng avian influenza o bird flu outbreak kamakailan.

Tinimbre ng Japan sa World Organization for Animal Health na nagkaroon sila ng kaso ng bird flu sa Hokkaido noong Oktubre 16 at nagsabi naman ang Austria na nagka-outbreak ng bird flu sa kanilang bansa noong Oktubre 7.

Naglabas si Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. ng Memorandum Order No. 48 nitong November 12 kung saan inutos ang import ban ng manok, ibon at poultry products mula sa Japan. Kasunod nito ang Memorandum Order No. 49 para naman sa import ban sa Australia.

Layon ng DA sa ginawang hakbang na pangalagaan ang lokal na industriya.

Inutusan na rin ni Laurel ang Bureau of Animal Industry na huwag muna magbigay ng import permit o sanitary phytosanitary import clearance para sa mga manok, ibon, at poultry products mula Japan at Austria. (Eileen Mencias)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/11/14/agri-chief-inutos-import-ban-vs-manok-galing-austria-japan/>

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:

Diskwento sa amilyar sa mga magsasaka, isusulong

[Mer Layson](#)

November 15, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Isinusulong ni dating kalihim Benjamin “Benhur” Abalos ang panukalang magbigay ng diskwento sa amilyar o Real Property Tax (RPT) para sa mga aktibong magsasaka.

Ayon kay Abalos, mahalaga ang papel ng mga magsasaka sa ekonomiya ng bansa at sa seguridad ng pagkain, kaya’t nararapat lamang na bigyan sila ng insentibo.

“Yung RPT ng mga magsasaka, dapat siguro incentivize ‘yung mga owners at bigyan ng discount sa RPT para ganahan silang magtanim at hindi nila iwan ang pagsasaka,” sabi ni Abalos.

“Ang mga magsasaka ang mga bayani natin sa agrikultura. Sila ang nagpapakain sa atin. Kailangan natin silang suportahan hindi lang sa produksyon kundi pati sa mga gastusin,” ani Abalos na kandidato sa pagkasenador sa 2025 sa ilalim ng Alyansa Para sa Bagong Pilipinas ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Bukod sa diskwento sa amilyar, sinabi rin ni Abalos na bagamat libre na ang pag-aaral sa State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), dapat bigyan sila ng allowance ang mga anak ng mga magsasaka bilang karagdang insentibo sa kanila.

Malaking tulong ito para sa mga pamilyang umaasa sa sakahan.

Pinuri rin ni Abalos ang kasalukuyang administrasyon sa mga programa nitong mababang pautang na may interes na 1-2 porsiyento para sa mga magsasakang nais magtanim, at hinikayat ang pagpapatuloy nito sa pamamagitan ng batas.

Bilang karagdagan, iminungkahi ni Abalos ang pagpapalawig ng crop insurance ng Department of Agriculture at Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation upang mas maprotektahan ang mga magsasaka at mangingisda mula sa mga sakuna o pagkalugi.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/11/15/2400272/diskwento-sa-amilyar-sa-mga-magsasaka-isusulong>

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:

Poultry products mula Japan at Austria, ban sa Pilipinas

Angie dela Cruz

November 15, 2024 | 12:00am



Paliwanag ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr., layon ban na maingatan ang local poultry industry mula sa posibleng pagkahawa ng naturang mga hayop.

AFP, file

MANILA, Philippines — Pansamantalang ipinagbabawal ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang importasyon ng poultry products gayundin ang mga domestic at wild birds mula sa bansang Austria at Japan dahil sa ulat na outbreaks ng Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) sa naturang mga bansa.

Paliwanag ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr., layon ban na maingatan ang local poultry industry mula sa posibleng pagkahawa ng naturang mga hayop.

Una nang iniulat ng Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries na may outbreak ng H5 subtype ng bird flu sa Atsuma, Hokkaido sa World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) na nagsimula noong October 16, 2024

Iniulat naman ng Austria's Vice-President of the Regional Commission sa WOA anhb outbreak ng bird flu subtype sa Mattighofen, Braunau am Inn, Oberosterreich na nagsimula noong October 7, 2024.

Dulot ng ban, hindi muna mag-iisyu ang Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) ng sanitary at phytosanitary import clearances para sa domestic at wild birds, poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs at semen para sa artifici insemination ng manok.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2024/11/15/2400285/poultry-products-mula-japan-austria-ban-sa-pilipinas>