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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **₱241.89M agricultural damage recorded, 10,523 farmers devastated by Typhoon 'Nika'**

**BY JEL SANTOS**

Nov 16, 2024 04:55 PM



The Department of Agriculture (DA) has recorded around ₱241.89 million in damage on the agricultural sector as a result of typhoon "Nika" onslaught.

The estimate released on Friday, Nov. 15, covers the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, and Central Luzon where a total of 10,523 farmers were also reported to have been affected.

Based on the DA report, "Nika" devastated 11,607 hectares of agricultural land and caused production losses amounting to 8,217 metric tons.

The breakdown showed that 5,946 metric tons of high-value crops were lost, while palay (unmilled rice) and corn were at 2,209 and 62 metric tons, respectively.

To help affected farmers, the agency said it has allocated ₱84.88 million worth of agricultural inputs, including seeds for rice, corn, and vegetables, as well as supplies for livestock and poultry.

The DA noted that rice stocks from the National Food Authority are being distributed as relief by local government units, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and other agencies.

As such, the agricultural department said financial assistance was made available, with loans of up to ₱25,000 under the zero-interest Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Program, payable within three years.

Insured farmers will receive indemnities through the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), the DA said.

Meanwhile, the department said the Quick Response Fund has been activated to aid in the rehabilitation of affected infrastructure and agricultural areas.

The DA said their price monitoring efforts have been intensified to identify potential fluctuations in the market for key agricultural products, while logistical assistance for transporting commodities is being provided through KADIWA trucks.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/16/241-89-m-agricultural-damage-nika>

# PH to import rice due to typhoons' damage to agri sector

BY ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

Nov 16, 2024 07:04 AM

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## AT A GLANCE

- Data from the DA showed that as of Nov. 11, typhoons Kristine and Leon alone caused P5.89 billion worth of rice production losses while the volume of palay production losses was at 323,633 metric tons.

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President Marcos revealed that the country would have to import rice to compensate for the agricultural damages caused by the recent typhoons that hit the country in just three weeks.



*President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. (RTVM screenshot)*

Marcos said this as he led a situation briefing on the combined effects of typhoons Nika, Ofel, and Pepito in Quezon City on Friday, Nov. 15.

In an interview with reporters, the President admitted that the past six typhoons, which devastated several parts of the country in the past three weeks, caused massive destruction to the agriculture sector.

"In terms of food security, we're alright. But marami talagang nasisira. Ang dami ng nasira na palayan, ang dami na nasira na tanim (Many ricefields and crops were destroyed). We will just have to compensate for that," he said.

According to Marcos, the Department of Agriculture (DA) informed him of a possible importation of around 4.5 million tons.

"The upper estimate is 4.5 [million tons] but we have already in place the prices of rice – imported rice has gone down significantly since last year. And we are not in competition like during the El Niño period," he said.

"During the El Niño period, tinamaan lahat ng ASEAN countries kaya't tumaas presyo kasi lahat namimili. Titignan natin (all ASEAN countries were affected that's why the prices increased because everyone was buying rice. Let's see). Of course, we'll do everything to control the price of the food, especially those products that have been damaged or destroyed by Pepito," he added.

The successive typhoons in the country caused around P7.039 billion in agricultural damages and losses in regions I, II, III, VI, VIII, XII, the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Calabarzon, Mimaropa, and the Bicol Region.

Data from the DA showed that as of Nov. 11, typhoons Kristine and Leon alone caused P5.89 billion worth of rice production losses while the volume of palay production losses was at 323,633 metric tons.

Typhoon Pepito is seen to bring heavy rains to several parts of the country starting Saturday, Nov. 16.

[https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/16/rice-importation-due-to-typhoons#google\\_vignette](https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/16/rice-importation-due-to-typhoons#google_vignette)

# Import ban from Denmark lifted after avian flu resolution, says agri department

BY JEL SANTOS

Nov 15, 2024 05:19 PM



(MB FILE PHOTO)

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has lifted the ban on importing poultry and bird products from Denmark, nearly two years after it was imposed due to an avian flu outbreak.

Through Memorandum Order No. 50 issued on Nov. 12, DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. announced that the import ban had been lifted.

The decision came after the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration confirmed to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) that all cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Denmark had been resolved, with no new outbreaks reported since Sept. 12.

The agency initially implemented the ban in December 2022 to safeguard local poultry farmers and consumers amid the HPAI outbreak in Denmark.

The restrictions covered domestic and wild birds, poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs, and semen.

While the ban is no longer in effect, Laurel said that all poultry importations from Denmark must adhere strictly to the department's rules and guidelines for agricultural food imports.

The directive took effect immediately upon issuance, the agency added.

(MB FILE PHOTO)

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[https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/15/import-ban-from-denmark-lifted-after-avian-flu-resolution-says-agri-department#google\\_vignette](https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/15/import-ban-from-denmark-lifted-after-avian-flu-resolution-says-agri-department#google_vignette)

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Get up and jump back after Kristine

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT - Chit U. Juan - The Philippine Star**

November 16, 2024 | 12:00am

After Severe Tropical Storm Kristine, I had wanted to visit the area where she unleashed her fury, Camarines Sur. I saw the photos in the papers and on the internet and actually could not contact our friends, Bernadette or Bidi-Bidi and our community leader, Teodora Aquino, who supplies us with her banner product, taba ng talangka (crab paste). Aquino was a beneficiary of our Great Women Project in 2012 which Global Affairs Canada and Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) supported. We merely provided market access for her products but 12 years later, we are still in business with her group. Bernadette, on the other hand, is a multi-awarded artist who also is a rural farmer.

I waited for five days until Bernadette finally replied to my messages. Aquino, on the other hand, reached out about a few days later, much to our pleasant surprise. She said: “Your goods are on the way!” and “Our electricity is back.” Just like that, I wondered what the back stories were.

As luck would have it, I was invited to grace the awarding ceremonies of the Outstanding Rural Women of Bicol held by the Department of Agriculture’s Regional Gender and Development (GAD) focal point Madame Aloha Gigi Bañaria. Guess where? Camarines Sur! Though I was a bit unsure if my flight would push through with three storms yet coming, I prayed it would and it did.

First stop was Bidi’s farm store where her people are still drying bales of cloth on her rooftop, and many of her people still cleaning up or as we say in Filipino, naglilimas. This term gives you a picture of people busy cleaning up after a storm. This is three weeks after, and they are still at it. Bidi showed me how high the waters reached (one meter or more) on that fateful night of Oct. 22 when the dams broke and released a deluge into her town of Ba-ao, a railroad town where Philippine National Railways (PNR) used to stop when trains were still working and in fashion. This has never happened before, she relates. But she carries on, though most of her possessions like books and papers will never be restored as they were washed away. Her neighbors saw her antique narra chairs floating in the street. That bad.

On the other side of Ba-ao, a little further towards Naga is Gainza, a fifth-class municipality where our community leaders have managed to start a thriving food processing business making crab paste back in 2012. Government agencies worked to give them a building that is good for 15 years, maybe thinking no business would last that long. But they did. Now they have just two years left in this structure and they would have to start paying rent soon. It is my first time to see Teodora in Gainza, as our last meet up was in our Serendra store maybe 10 years ago. We served her crab paste with pasta and she was floored. She never thought a chef would use her product for what looked like a five-star meal.



Teodora and co-member Jovita told us their Typhoon Kristine stories. Jovita stayed on her stairs for three days, until rescuers came. Teodora hosted 11 families in her second story, as they had no other place to go while waiting for flood waters to subside. After a half sack of rice was finished in three days, they ran out of food to serve all 11 families. Thank God rescuers came with more provisions. After the waters ebbed, the women leaders went back to work and started the clean-up of their homes, then to the factory to ship out orders. Not wasting any time, Teodora and Jovita went back to work, undeterred by what they just went through.

And this is the secret of these women farmers. Their tenacity and resilience are unmatched and best recognized by the public. This leads me to the Search for Outstanding Rural Women (SORW) 2024, which event led me to visit these two exceptional women leaders. DA Region 5 recognized five women who are inspiring farmer-leaders, organic practitioners and all-around mothers and wives. I commend Region 5 for setting an example for others to emulate – that is, recognizing these rural women. In the audience were past winners and heads of Rural Improvement Clubs or RICs. I could feel the power in that hall on a balmy afternoon in Magarao, a sleepy town near Naga. There was enough estrogen to lift a mountain with all the women (and some men) present. In fact, Chief Bañaria’s assistant GAD focal is a man. What better way to show diversity and gender equity.

As I look back on my day spent with these women, I turn a bit emotional as I could feel their pain and suffering but they still manage to smile. In fact, they do not even post photos of their damage but more of how they have come back from the ruins. And that is what is most admirable. They did not even ask for funds or help because of what they went through. They simply went back to business. I bought a few new product samples, and she threw in an extra bottle for good measure.

As for Bernadette, she is also slowly recovering but also is just asking for understanding if she is a bit late in her response. They both – Bernadette and Teodora – have gone back to work and preparing for adaptation because there just may be another woman like Kristine who will again unleash her rage and fury. It is now climate adaptation and not mitigation that they are after. In fact, Teodora ended our short meet up by saying: “Maybe I just need to elevate my flooring a little, Ma’am.” With a smile, she told me they will carry on.

Now if that is not resilience, I don’t know what is.

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2024/11/16/2400540/get-and-jump-back-after-kristine>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# DA allots P300 million for drones in rice production

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

November 16, 2024 | 12:00am



Despite scorching heat, farmers are busy putting their harvested rice inside the sacks in Calatagan, Batangas on March 30, 2024.

STAR / Jesse Bustos

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) has allotted P300 million to promote the use of drones for the country's palay production.

At a press conference, DA National Rice Program deputy program director Glenn Estrada said the department has started the Drones4Rice Project which initially targets to cover at least 150,000 hectares of palay plantations in the country.

“We have about 4.8 million hectares of land and we will initially target to cover 150,000 hectares to jumpstart the Drones4Rice Program,” Estrada said.

He added the Drones4Rice Program aims to reduce palay production costs and need for manual labor. It also aims to draw the youth to farming.

“We already covered 20,000 hectares as the cropping season has just started, primarily under the National Irrigation Administration,” Estrada added.

According to him, a farmer only needs to spend P8,000 when using drones in palay production compared to the normal P12,000 labor cost.

“The full application for drones, including crop establishment, fertilizer application, pesticide and other chemical application is estimated to reach P8,000 and the government is subsidizing about P2,000. The P4,000 savings can be used by farmers to cater to their needs,” Estrada said.

The lower costs of production will eventually result in lower retail price of the staple in the markets, he stressed.

“The absolute cost (for palay planting), including harvesting activities, ranges between P70,000 and P80,000. The yield is about four to five metric tons (MT) per hectare. We want to improve the productivity of the farmers,” he said.

He stated that the P300-million funding allocated by the DA will be used for the purchase of drones and to finance the voucher program of the department.

“A drone normally costs P800,000 but the entire package including licensing amounts to P1.5 million. We will provide the services to the farmers through the vouchers service provision. The farmers are entitled to a P2,000 voucher per hectare,” he said.

Estrada said the Drones4Rice Project is expected to accelerate the rice industry’s digital transformation as part of the core strategies of the DA’s Masagana Rice Industry Development Program.

### **Vegetable prices up**

The retail price of vegetables continues to go up by as much as P60 per kilo compared to the prevailing price a week ago amid the devastation brought by successive typhoons, according to DA’s monitoring.

Metro Manila markets saw lowland vegetables such as bitter melon and eggplant reach prices as high as P220 per kilo, P60 more than the previous retail price of P160 per kilo a week ago.

Tomatoes further went up as its retail price ranged between P140 and P220 per kilo compared to the previous retail price between P70 and P200 per kilo.

The retail price of squash also increased to P80 per kilo compared to P70 per kilo last week.

Retail price of cabbage is still high at P140 per kilo; carrots at P200 per kilo; Baguio beans at P200 per kilo; potatoes at P150 per kilo; chayote at P80 per kilo and bell pepper at P500 per kilo.

Local garlic reached P500 per kilo; ginger, P330 per kilo and siling labuyo still at P600 per kilo.

Meanwhile, the retail price of milkfish also increased to as high as P250 per kilo compared to P220 per kilo a week ago.

The retail price of sardines also increased to P160 per kilo compared to P100 per kilo a week ago.

Typhoons continue to affect the country as the damage to agriculture has reached at least P9.81 billion affecting 233,923 farmers and fisherfolk.

The damage to high-value crops reached P1.23 billion covering 10,163 hectares and a production loss of 46,016 MT.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/16/2400596/da-allots-p300-million-drones-rice-production>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Cagayan's agri damage from 4 typhoons reaches P1.4-B

By: [Leilanie Adriano](#) - /

Philippine News Agency / 11:03 AM November 16, 2024



TYPHOON AFTERMATH. Scattered debris everywhere in Cagayan province on Friday (Nov. 15, 2024) as series of typhoons battered Northern Luzon for over a month now. The agriculture sector is among the hardest hit with at least PHP1.4 billion estimated damage. (Photo courtesy of Cagayan Provincial Information Office)

TUGUEGARAO CITY – The province of Cagayan has recorded an initial P1.4 billion damage in agriculture from the series of weather disturbances that hit Northern Luzon in recent weeks.

Major crops like rice, corn, coconut, and bananas have been wiped out and around 30,900 homes were destroyed after Typhoon Julian (international name Krathon), Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (Trami), Super Typhoon Leon (Kong-rey), and Typhoon Marce (Yinxing) hit northern Philippines since the last week of September.

Several roads, bridges, and schools were also damaged.

Governor Manuel Mamba, in an interview Friday, appealed to the private sector to extend their help to typhoon victims as the provincial government's quick response fund is running out.

“Our problem is between now and the planting season because there's nothing to harvest anymore. People are without work for the next three months. We really need the help of the private sector,” he said in mixed Filipino and English.

For now, Mamba said there is continuing provision of financial assistance and distribution of early maturing crops which can be harvested in 45 days as among the stopgap measures to aid typhoon-affected families.

He expressed gratitude to President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., who visited the municipality of Buguey last Nov. 10, for the assurance of continued distribution of family food packs to the evacuation centers.

Vincent Abadilla, a farmer-entrepreneur in Alcala town, said all his crops could no longer be recovered after five consecutive weather disturbances inundated his farm and torn off his house's roofing.

“Hirap na nga ang buhay pinapahirapan pa kami ng baha (Life is already hard and the flood is making us suffer),” said Abadilla, grateful that he was able to save some of his goats from drowning.

To date, the towns of Santa Ana, Santa Praxedes, and Claveria are still “totally blackout” due to severe damage of major power lines, while several roads and bridges are still not passable due to flooding and approach damage.

According to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), immediate clearing operations and restoration of the damaged approach of a bridge in Barangay San Jose, Gonzaga town, which connects to the municipality of Santa Ana, is now ongoing.

The approach of the bridge collapsed on Thursday evening due to soil erosion from heavy rains brought by Super Typhoon Ofel (Usagi).

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2005637/cagayans-agri-damage-from-4-typhoons-reaches-p1-4-b>

# To the trade secretary, please save our bananas

By: [Ernesto M. Ordoñez](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 02:18 AM November 16, 2024

## TARIFF

COUNTRIES	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
CAMBODIA	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
LAOS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
VIETNAM	8.19%	6.1%	4.2%	2.0%	0.0%
PHILIPPINES	13.09%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%

SOURCE: JAPAN TARIFF.PDF

INQ GRAPHICS

### BIZ\_DTI Table

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) must support agriculture as much as industry. Our agriculture is at risk of being destroyed by lower tariffs for other countries compared to ours, particularly in our major markets. We see this clearly in the case of our banana exports.

The Alyansa Agrikultura has long been recommending that we appoint a special trade representative (STR) who does not report either to the DTI or the Department of Agriculture (DA). This will ensure that agriculture will get as much attention as industry.

International trade is so important that it needs full-time effort from an STR, who should report directly to the President. There is an STR structure currently being used in the United States and we can see its obvious benefits.

In the Philippines, international trade is headed by the trade secretary. We saw instances in the past when industry was favored over agriculture in international trade negotiations. Hopefully, this is no longer happening today.

## **Exports**

The case of our banana exports needs the focused attention and full support of the DTI chief.

In a report from the University of the Philippines Los Baños, it stated: “Banana production is a source of income and employment to 5.6 million farmers and is one of the country’s top export earners.” Unfortunately, a report from Statista reveals that our banana exports of P101.2 billion in 2019 was cut in half to only P56.1 billion in 2021.

This meant a significant loss of jobs and increased poverty for our banana farmers. This decline continued until last year, when Produce Report stated: “The Philippines overcame its three-year decline in banana exports in 2023, reporting a 3.4-percent year-on-year increase.”

Unfortunately, the joy from this small victory was short-lived.

Last Nov. 8, Paul Cuyegkeng, former president of Dole Asia and now chair and part-owner of Sumufru Philippines Corp., participated in a meeting of the committee on international trade of the public-private Philippine Council of Agriculture and Fisheries.

He said: “We are now experiencing another banana export downturn. Largely because of Vietnam’s banana tariffs in Japan which are much lower than ours, their exports this year have doubled, while ours have significantly decreased.”

Do check the table of comparative banana tariffs in Japan for the Philippines compared to Vietnam and other emerging competitors like Cambodia and Laos.

It is only a matter of time before we see our banana industry decimated, unless we act swiftly to decrease our tariffs to achieve a level playing field.

We congratulate and thank the DTI for leading the gradual reduction of tariffs for our bananas entering South Korea. Our tariffs there are still much higher than Vietnam and other countries. But at least, we see a reduction forthcoming in the next few years. In Japan, there is none at all.



## **Most important market**

We must note that Japan is the largest and most important market for Philippine bananas. In an earlier press release, the DA stated: “During his visit in Japan in December 2023, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. met with Japanese officials and businessmen to open more export opportunities. The DA is coordinating with the DTI to secure preferential tariff rates for Philippine bananas.” It added, “Philippine bananas are staples for Japanese consumers, accounting for 22 percent of their food basket.”

So far, there has been no improvement in this area. It is now up to the Trade chief to help boost agriculture.

Cuyegkeng continues: “At least for South Korea, we can still get investments because there is some tariff reduction. We will not get any investments for Japan because there is no reduction at all. Our high 13-percent tariff will remain, while countries like Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos will have zero percent, either now or by 2028. Who wants to invest in an enterprise when the prospect is bleak?”

The DA must also work very closely with the DTI so that agriculture issues are given as much attention as industry. Other sectors are also suffering from the same fate as our bananas.

Without the necessary focus and attention, our agriculture will continue its precipitous decline in a challenging and potentially dangerous global environment.

<https://business.inquirer.net/490336/to-the-trade-secretary-please-save-our-bananas>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Marcos: PH to import 4.5-M tons of rice following series of devastation

By: [Luisa Cabato](#) - Reporter / [@luisacabatoINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:13 PM November 15, 2024



President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. visits flood victims in evacuation centers in Bula town and Naga City in Camarines Sur in this file photo taken on October 26, 2024. As of Saturday morning, or five days since torrential rains spawned by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami) began flooding the province, most of the villages in Camarines Sur remain submerged in floodwater. | PHOTO: Screenshot from Bongbong Marcos' Facebook live

MANILA, Philippines — Due to recent devastation to agriculture caused by consecutive typhoons that hit the country, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said the government will have to import around 4.5 million tons of rice to suffice the needs of Filipinos.

He said this in an ambush interview after a Friday situation briefing on Typhoon Pepito.

Marcos asked whether the damage to agriculture caused by typhoons in the past three weeks would result in rice importation, and Marcos said, “Yes.”

“Yes, I think so. Unfortunately. I just received a report from DA [Department of Agriculture] that it looks like our importation will decrease,” he said in a mix of Filipino and English.

“We will import close to four and a half million tons. Nag 3.9 million tayo last year [We reached 3.9 million last year],“ he continued.

But the president also assured that the Philippines’ food security remains alright.

“In terms of food security, we’re alright, but a lot of rice fields and crops have been damaged. We will just have to compensate for that,” he said.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2005376/marcos-ph-to-import-4-5-m-tons-of-rice-following-series-of-devastation>

**REMATE:**

# 4.5M tonelada ng bigas aangkatin sa agri damage ng sunod-sunod na bagyo

November 16, 2024 11:33



MANILA, Philippines – SINABI ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr., na aangat ang Pilipinas ng 4.5 milyong tonelada ng bigas matapos ang pinsalang natamo ng sektor ng agrikultura dahil sa sunod-sunod na bigwas ng bagyo na tumama sa bansa.

Ang pag-aangat ng bigas ay sapat para sa pangangailangan ng mga Filipino.

Sinabi ito ng Pangulo sa isang ambush interview matapos ang situation briefing ukol sa Bagyong Pepito.

Tinanong kasi ang Pangulo kung ang pinsala sa agrikultura sanhi ng mga bagyo sa nakalipas na tatlong linggo ay magresulta ng rice importation, at ang tugon nito ay “Yes.

Yes, I think so. Unfortunately. I just received a report from DA [Department of Agriculture] that it looks like our importation will decrease,” ang sinabi ng Pangulo.

“We will import close to four and a half million tons. Nag 3.9 million tayo last year [ We reached 3.9 million last year],“ aniya pa rin.

Sa kabilang dako, tiniyak naman ng Chief Executive na ang ‘food security’ ng Pilipinas ay nananatiling maayos.

“In terms of food security, we’re alright, but a lot of rice fields and crops have been damaged.

We will just have to compensate for that,”ang sinabi ng Punong Ehekutibo. *Kris Jose*

<https://remate.ph/4-5m-tonelada-ng-big-as-a-ang-kat-in-sa-ag-ri-dam-age-ng-sun-od-sun-od-na-ba-g-y-o/>

**REMATE:**

# **Ban sa pag-import ng mga ibon, poultry mula Denmark inalis na**

November 15, 2024 17:46



MANILA, Philippines – Inalis na ng Pilipinas ang ban sa pag-import ng domestic at wild birds, kabilang ang poultry products mula Denmark halos dalawang taon matapos na ipatupad ang direktiba.

Sa pahayag ni Department of Agriculture (DA) Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. sa

Memorandum Order. No. 50 na inisyu nitong Martes, inaalis na ang temporary import ban na ipinatupad noong Disyembre 2022.

Ang ban ay inalis matapos na abisuhan ng Danish Veterinary and Food Administration ang World Organization for Animal Health na lahat ng kaso ng highly pathogenic avian influenza sa European country ay naresolba na at wala nang karagdagang outbreaks ang iniulat mula Setyembre 12, 2024.

Sakop ng import ban ang domestic at wild birds at mga produkto nito, kabilang ang poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs, at semen. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/ban-sa-pag-import-ng-mga-ibon-poultry-mula-denmark-inalis-na/>

**REMATE:**

# Loan programs sa mga magsasaka na apektado ng bagyo, palalawakin ng DA

November 15, 2024 17:07



MANILA, Philippines – PATULOY na paghuhusayin at palalakihin ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang loan programs para tulungan ang mga magsasaka at mangingisda para palakasin ang produksyon, tulungan ang mga naapektuhan ng kalamidad at hikayatin ang mga kabataan na makisali sa pagsasaka.

Sa isang panayam, sinabi ni DA Agricultural Credit Policy Council Executive Director Ma. Cristina Lopez na ang iba't ibang loan programs ay available para sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda sa mababa o maging zero – interest rates, lalo na matapos ang pananalasa ng kalamidad.

Kabilang na rito ang Agri-Negosyo Loan at ang Survival and Calamity Loan Program para sa mga magkakasaka na apektado ng kalamidad, i- refinance ang mga opsyon kabilang na ang moratoriums na available para sa mga umiiral na 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,” ang sinabi ni Lopez.

Aniya pa, ang Agri-Negosyo Loan ay nag-alok ng loans ng hanggang P300,000 na may subsidized interest rate na 2% per annum.

Tinuran pa nito na ang loan ay available sa mga magsasaka na aktibong sangkot sa pagsasaka , sa kabila ng wala itong pansariling pag-aari ng lupain na sakahan.

“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,” ani Lopez.

Winika pa ni Lopez na ang bawat pamilya ay entitled sa isang loan lamang subalit “exemptions are in place for family members who cultivate separate farms, even though they live under one roof.”

Ang Survival and Calamity Loan Program ay available sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda na apektado ng kalamidad gaya ng kamakailan lamang na sunod-sunod na tropical cyclones na tumama sa ilang lalawigan sa bansa.

“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,” ang sinabi ni Lopez.

Samantala, ang mga may existing loans subalit apektado ng kalamidad ay maaaring mag-avail ng moratorium sa loan repayment, pinapayagan ang mga borrowers na ipagpaliban ang pagbabayad ng kanilang principal ng hanggang isang taon lalo pa’t kung ang kanilang mga pananim ay nasira.

Idagdag pa rito, nakipag-ugnayan na ang DA sa mga lending institutions na mag-alok ng ‘refinancing options’ para sa mga ito.

Ani Lopez, sa ilalim ng Agri-Negosyo at Survival and Calamity Loan programs, nagpalabas na ang DA ng P28 billion simula pa noong 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,” ayon pa rin kay Lopez.

Ang pondo ay ipamamahagi sa pamamagitan ng iba't ibang channels, kabilang na ang kooperatiba at rural banks, upang magbigay ng financial relief sa mga nangangailangan.

Tinuran pa ni Lopez na 5,600 magsasaka mula sa apektadong lalawigan ang nagpahayag ng kanilang intensyon na mag-avail ng loan program, karamihan mula sa Bicol region.

“Para sa moratorium, mga P167 million benefitting 1,100,” aniya pa rin.

HINIKAYAT ng DA ang mga kabataan na makiisa sa agrikultura, inalok ng loans ng hanggang P500,000 ang mga kabataang indbiduwal na naghahanda na makapasok sa pagsasaka, depende sa proyekto ng DA.

“Talagang hinihikayat natin ang mga kabataan na mag-engage sa agriculture. Meron tayong programa para sa kanila,” ang sinabi ni Lopez.

Layon ng programa na gawing mas accessible ang agricultural financing, maging sa mga newcomers na madalas na nakararanas ng rejection kapag naglo-loan mula sa 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,” ang sinabi ni Lopez.

Samantala, sinabi pa rin ni Lopez na ang DA, sa pamamagitan ng municipal agriculturists, nakamonitor sa mga mag-aavail ng programa, tinitiyak ang wastong paggamit ng loan, sa pamamagitan ng pagbisita sa mga ito. *Kris Jose*

<https://remate.ph/loan-programs-sa-mga-magsasaka-na-apektado-ng-bagyo-palalawakin-ng-da/>



**REMATE:**

# **Importasyon ng domestic at wild birds, poultry products mula Austria, Japan pansamantalang ipinagbawal sa Pinas**

November 15, 2024 09:23



MANILA, Philippines- Pansamantalang ipinagbawal na makapasok sa Pilipinas ang importasyon ng ‘domestic and wild birds at poultry products’ mula Austria at Japan dahil sa napaulat na outbreaks ng Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) sa kani-kanilang bansa.

Sa isang kalatas, nagpalabas si Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. ng hiwalay na memorandum orders —MO No. 49 (Austria) at MO No. 48 (Japan)—para sa implementasyon ng import ban.

Layon ng import ban na pangalagaan ang local poultry industry mula sa panganib mula sa banta sa kalusugan ng mga hayop.

Bunsod ang kautusan ng ulat ng Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries ng Japan sa outbreak ng H5 subtype ng bird flu sa Atsuma, Hokkaido, sa World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) noong Nobyembre 5, 2024.

Ang outbreak, nangyari noong October 16, 2024, naapektuhan ang domestic birds.

Gayundin, ipinagbawal ng DA ang importasyon ng ‘birds at poultry’ mula Austria matapos na iulat naman ni Dr. Ulrich Herzog, vice president ng Regional Commission of Austria sa WOAHA ang outbreak ng H5N1 bird flu subtype sa Mattighofen, Braunau am Inn, Oberosterreich.

Ang outbreak, kinumpirma noong October 7, 2024 sa pamamagitan ng Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety, ay nakaapekto sa domestic birds.

Sinabi naman ni Tiu Laurel na ipinalabas ang mga memorandum order para protektahan ang local poultry industry mula sa potensiyal na animal at public health risks.

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

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

Samantala, bilang bahagi ng import ban, inatasan naman ang Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) na itigil na ang pagpapalabas ng ‘sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances’ para sa ‘domestic and wild birds, poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs, at semen para sa ‘artificial insemination’ ng mga manok. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/importasyon-ng-domestic-at-wild-birds-poultry-products-mula-austria-japan-pansamantalang-ipinagbawal-sa-pinas/>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# Rice harvest to drop by 30% in Tabuk

By **Leander C. Domingo**

November 16, 2024

THE Tabuk City Agricultural Services Office in Kalinga province said its rice yield is expected to decrease by 30 percent due to severe damage caused by typhoons that hit the city.

City Agriculturist Lim Ducyogen said the rice yield may drop from 40 to 70 cavans per hectare from the previous target of 80 to 100 cavans.

Ducyogen said typhoons Kristine and Nika had damaged nearly 5,000 hectares of rice fields.

He said typhoon Nika's strong wind knocked down then crops that are already in the flowering, and most sensitive, stage.

"Crops that survived during the onslaught of typhoon Kristine were completely destroyed by typhoons Marce and Nika," Ducyogen said.

He said the city agriculturist office is conducting monitoring and onsite inspection of damaged farmland in all barangay.

"We are also encouraging farmers to report damage to their rice, corn and high-value crops to either the city agriculturist office or their respective barangay local government unit," Ducyogen said.

Ducyogen said they are still probing the damage to agriculture with another typhoon expected to hit land on Saturday and a report will be submitted to the provincial government and the Department of Agriculture in the Cordillera region for possible assistance.

Farmers insured under the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) were also advised to immediately report damage to their crops to speed up the processing of their claims.

Meanwhile, Tabuk City Mayor Darwin Estrañero instructed the office of the city agriculturist to speed up damage assessment in agriculture and assist insured farmers in processing their indemnity payments from PCIC.

Estrañero also called on the public, barangay officials and government agencies to remain alert to the possibility of another typhoon hitting Northern Luzon in the coming days.

[https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/16/regions/rice-harvest-to-drop-by-30-in-tabuk/2005540?fbclid=IwY2xjawGnb5pleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHa2z49Rodwba95Xf\\_GWf1H7jPfawr5J2gVAMlvS6Cvn0UjLz7gK5y8IT1w\\_aem\\_Ie0MflA3Hs4YZw0kLD5agQ](https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/16/regions/rice-harvest-to-drop-by-30-in-tabuk/2005540?fbclid=IwY2xjawGnb5pleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHa2z49Rodwba95Xf_GWf1H7jPfawr5J2gVAMlvS6Cvn0UjLz7gK5y8IT1w_aem_Ie0MflA3Hs4YZw0kLD5agQ)

# **DA: Using drones for fertilizer, pesticide application to cut costs, spur efficiency**

Ada Pelonia  
November 16, 2024



THE use of drones for fertilizer and pesticide application in rice farming can lower production costs and boost farmers' efficiency, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Glenn Estrada, Program Director of the DA's Masagana Rice Industry Development Program (MRIDP), explained that most farmers into transplanting normally spend around P10,000 to P12,000 per hectare using traditional knapsack sprayers.

“[That amount] is just the labor cost for one crop establishment,” Estrada told reporters during a press conference Friday in Quezon City, speaking partly in Filipino.

“The full application of drones, including crop establishment, fertilizer application, pesticide, and other chemicals application is estimated at P8,000 [per hectare],” he added,

Estrada said the agency will also provide farmers with a P2,000 voucher subsidy when availing the service. With this, he said local tillers could save about P4,000 per hectare.

He also shared that drone technology could bolster farmers’ productivity in terms of application.

“In manual labor, it will take you half a day to finish one hectare. For the drones, we can have it [done] in 10 to 15 minutes. It’s that efficient,” Estrada said.

The drone initiative is part of the Drones4Rice Project of the DA National Rice Program (DA-NRP), which aims to standardize the protocols for drone applications of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides for rice production in the country.

Estrada shared the project’s initial target to have 150,000 hectares nationwide use drone technology for farming, which is “a small fraction” of areas out of the 4.8 million hectares being cultivated in the country.

“For us to initially approach all these farmers’ groups to really look into and appreciate this technology, we have demonstrations nationwide,” he said.

Estrada said farmers with 20,000 hectares of farmland have already signified their interest in the project, which will unreel in the dry cropping season of 2024 to 2025.

Meanwhile, the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) said it will develop a set of protocols, standards, and monitoring for drone use in agriculture.

The FPA explained that despite the availability of drones in the country, and regulations for their use in place, “additional work is needed to reduce regulatory constraints, standardize operations, develop digital precision agriculture (PA) tools, and scale up the adoption of these technologies.”

The agency noted that the guidelines should be complied with by drone controllers, operators, technicians, service providers, pesticide companies, and pesticide end-users.

This includes but is not limited to private and public research institutions, state universities and colleges (SUCs), other government agencies, and Local Government Units (LGUs), engaged in the business of drone spraying of agricultural pesticides and other agricultural chemicals to control pests and diseases.

Image credits: [Toa555 | Dreamstime.com](#)

[https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/16/da-using-drones-for-fertilizer-pesticide-application-to-cut-costs-spur-efficiency/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGnb5ZleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHWk44qbTzoZlOnNE6sMxcCwEbQZx1fCxxelKPBBsjH7cfi16CajkFqobyQ\\_aem\\_wf2jAfG2v2MBEctQPex8Rg](https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/16/da-using-drones-for-fertilizer-pesticide-application-to-cut-costs-spur-efficiency/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGnb5ZleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHWk44qbTzoZlOnNE6sMxcCwEbQZx1fCxxelKPBBsjH7cfi16CajkFqobyQ_aem_wf2jAfG2v2MBEctQPex8Rg)