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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **P30 wage hike in Eastern Visayas approved**

**BY [MARIE TONETTE MARTICIO](#)**

Nov 18, 2024 10:18 PM

The Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board has announced a P30 increase in the daily minimum wage in Eastern Visayas that will be paid in two tranches.

The wage increase was based on Wage Order No. RB VIII-24 approved on Nov. 5.

## **MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR IN EASTERN VISAYAS REGION APPROVED**

<b>Sector/Industry</b>	<b>Minimum Wage under Wage Order No. RB VIII-23</b>	<b>Wage Increase (Upon Effectivity)</b>	<b>New Minimum Wage Rates</b>	<b>Wage Increase (2nd Tranche: June 1, 2025)</b>	<b>New Minimum Wage Rates (Upon effectivity)</b>
Non-Agriculture	₱405.00	₱15.00	₱420.00	₱15.00	₱435.00
Service/Retail Establishments employing 11 workers and above			₱390.00		
Service/Retail Establishments employing 10 workers and below	₱375.00		₱390.00		₱405.00
Cottage and Handicraft					
Agriculture					

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rtwpb\_8@yahoo.com  
832-2978/ 09208790314- smart

The RTWRB said the wage order was implemented after a thorough review and evaluation of the existing socio-economic conditions in the region as well as consultations in key areas.

P15 will be added to the P405 minimum wage for non-agriculture or service and retail establishments with 11 or more employees starting Dec. 2.

It will be followed by an additional increase of P15 to bring the total minimum wage to P435 on June 1, 2025.

Workers in the agricultural sector, including service and retail establishments with 10 employees and below, and those working in cottage and handicraft industries will also receive a P30 increase in the daily minimum wage from P375 to P405.

It will also be implemented in two tranches.

[https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/18/p30-wage-hike-in-eastern-visayas-approved#google\\_vignette](https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/18/p30-wage-hike-in-eastern-visayas-approved#google_vignette)

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Rice tariff collections hit record-high P30 billion

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

November 19, 2024 | 12:00am



Preliminary Bureau of Customs (BOC) data showed that total tariffs collected from some 3.86 million metric tons (MT) of imported rice reached P30.095 billion at the end of October.

Philstar.com / Irra Lising

## **RCEF budget guaranteed**

MANILA, Philippines — The country's rice tariff collections reached a new record high after breaching the P30 billion mark, guaranteeing the amount needed to bankroll the proposed expanded state programs aimed at developing the local industry.

Preliminary Bureau of Customs (BOC) data showed that total tariffs collected from some 3.86 million metric tons (MT) of imported rice reached P30.095 billion at the end of October.

The total tariffs collected was 5.21 percent higher than the P28.604 billion collected in the same 10-month period last year, based on BOC data.

It also surpassed the P29.93 billion rice tariffs collected for the entire 2023.

The increase in rice tariff collections was driven by the higher volume of imports, a weaker peso and better shipment valuation by the customs bureau despite the lowering of the tariff rate to 15 percent in July.

With the latest tariff collections, the government is now assured of its budgetary requirement to bankroll the proposed expanded rice competitiveness enhancement fund (RCEF) beginning next year.

Under the proposed bill amending the rice tariffication law, the RCEF would be extended until 2031, with its earmarking fund raised to P30 billion from the present P10 billion allocation.

The budget for the RCEF shall come from the tariff collections on imported rice, with the possibility of augmentation through the General Appropriations Act if the total tariff collections fall below the earmarked fund of P30 billion.

The Congress-approved bill was sent to Malacañang last Nov. 7 and is currently awaiting the approval of President Marcos.

Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. president Danilo Fausto said the total rice tariff collections this year could settle between P32 billion and P33 billion, with more imported rice expected to arrive in the last two months of the year.

The additional rice imports, Fausto pointed out, would be driven by the need to replace the local harvest that was damaged and displaced by the series of typhoons that battered the country recently.

“(The) RCEF... has to be extended since it gives assurance of funding for increased rice productivity,” he told The STAR.

Total imported rice as of end-October expanded by 35.74 percent year-on-year to 3.863 million MT from 2.846 million MT last year, BOC data showed.

Raul Montemayor of the Federation of Free Farmers estimated that the government lost some P9.2 billion in tariff collections since the rice tariff cut took effect last July.

The figure, Montemayor pointed out, does not yet include the state losses due to rice shipment undervaluation which he estimated to be around P4.8 billion from January to October.

Montemayor cautioned that some of the line items or budgetary items of the DA could be affected in succeeding years if tariff collections fall below P30 billion, which would force the government to frontload the remainder through the department’s regular budget.

“It may be difficult to program both the RCEF and the regular National Rice Program (NRP) if they do not know the total budget of the DA. RCEF may suddenly siphon some of the budget of the NRP,” he said.

“Or the RCEF will just have to work within the tariff collections actually collected. Of course, Congress can just augment the RCEF budget if it is lacking and leave the NRP budget in tact but we do not know if that will actually happen,” he added.

The proposed legislation on the extension of the RCEF stipulated that the deficiency in the P30-billion RCEF would be sourced from a “new” provision or item in the DA budget in the GAA beginning 2025.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/11/19/2401163/rice-tariff-collections-hit-record-high-p30-billion>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Marcos: Share blessings with typhoon victims

[Alexis Romero](#) - The Philippine Star

November 19, 2024 | 12:00am



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

USAID Philippines

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos yesterday called on Filipinos to share their blessings during the Christmas season with those who have been affected by tropical cyclones as he assured the public that relief efforts are underway in areas hit by Super Typhoon Pepito.

“I hope when Christmas comes, we Filipinos will remember our countrymen who were devastated,” Marcos told reporters on the sidelines of the 49th National Prayer Breakfast at Malacañang.

“I hope that somehow, the things we intend as Christmas presents, let us just give these to those affected as they are suffering,” he added.

The government has been monitoring updates on Pepito and is set to conduct rescue and relief operations in affected areas, according to the President.

“We will now carry on with the rescue of those isolated areas and the continuing relief for those who ... have been displaced and have no means to prepare their own meals and have no water supplies... Rebuilding will start to continue as well,” he said.

Marcos said he was saddened by the report that one fatality has been recorded in Camarines Norte.

“You know, my feelings about that is that one casualty is one casualty too many, so that is unfortunate,” he said.

“However, I still would like to congratulate – we need to thank the first responders, the LGUs (local government units) and everyone who has been working. This is their sixth (cyclone). I’m sure that they are exhausted. I am sure that they have done – they continue to do and work as hard as they can,” he added.

For the Chief Executive, Pepito’s effects were not “as bad as we had feared,” noting that local residents have been following the bulletins issued by the government.

### **Appeal for donations**

The Diocese of Virac, Catanduanes, one the provinces hit hard by Pepito, is soliciting donations to those badly affected by the super typhoon.

The diocese posted on its social media account its appeal for donations, according to CBCPNews.

The diocese lamented that Pepito had left many people with “devastated homes, disrupted livelihoods and shattered hopes.”

“The island province of Catanduanes needs your help,” the diocese said.

“We humbly appeal for your generosity and kindness to support them in this difficult time,” it added.

The diocese said that any donations will make a difference in the lives of typhoon victims.

The diocese emphasized that donations, no matter the size, will help rebuild lives and restore hope for the affected communities.

“Your donations, big or small, will make a difference in rebuilding lives and restoring hope,” it said.

The tropical cyclone brought maximum wind speeds of 195 kilometers per hour as it made its first landfall in the province late Saturday.

The typhoon reportedly uprooted trees, downed power lines and damaged homes in Catanduanes.

### **Agriculture damage**

In a related development, a ranking official of the Department of Agriculture (DA) yesterday said that damage of the five consecutive tropical cyclones – Kristine, Leon, Marce, Nika and Ofel – to the agriculture sector had reached more than P10 billion, adding that it is expected to further go up as it does not include the devastation caused by Pepito.

DA Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa estimated that for rice production alone, the damage had already totaled P6 billion.

“The bulk came from Kristine, followed by Nika. The combined effect of Nika and Ofel amounted to P250 million. This does not include the damage of Pepito,” De Mesa said.

“Next to the P6-billion damage to the rice production is from the high value commercial crops amounting to more than P2 billion,” he added.

Before the devastations caused by these cyclones, at least 800,000 metric tons in production losses had already been recorded in the palay production amid the impact of the previous El Niño episode and other weather disturbances, according to the agriculture official. — **Bella Cariaso, Evelyn Macairan, Sheila Crisostomo**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/19/2401251/marcos-share-blessings-typhoon-victims>



**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Imports seen as solution as agri losses hit P10B

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:40 AM November 19, 2024

MANILA, Philippines — The agriculture sector has suffered more than P10 billion in losses due to the series of typhoons that recently hit the country, Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said in an interview on Monday.

Severe Tropical Storm Kristine and Super Typhoon Leon accounted for P9.81 billion in damages, based on data from the Department of Agriculture (DA), mostly in rice crops (P5.89 billion) and irrigation systems (P1.75 billion).

Succeeding Typhoons Nika and Ofel added losses of P248.47 million to the total, with high-value crops (P97.72 million) and rice (P49.08 million) accounting for most of the damage.

The DA has yet to report the impact of Super Typhoon Pepito on the sector. De Mesa, also the DA spokesperson, said that although the rice sector sustained substantial losses, “these can be easily compensated by our importation.”

As for vegetables, prices will remain high for some time as domestic farmers have yet to fully recover from the devastation brought about by successive weather disturbances, De Mesa said.

Farmers and fishers groups, however, reiterated their call for the government to stop rice and fish imports, noting that these did not result in lower prices.

Instead, they called for additional support for their members who were also reeling from losses due to the recent typhoons.

“The price of imported rice has not decreased and the production cost for local rice remains high due to the government’s lack of support,” said Danilo Ramos, chair of the farmers’ group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) on Monday.

The KMP is against the government’s plan to import more rice to offset the losses due to typhoons, with rice imports for this year possibly reaching around 4.5 million metric tons (MT), according to the DA.

For the KMP, importation “undermines local production and jeopardizes farmers’ livelihoods,” as it stressed the need for “immediate and significant compensation” for those affected.

“Instead of directly supporting local farmers to recover from the damages caused by recent typhoons, the government is relying on imports,” it said in a statement.

In another statement, fishers’ group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) also decried the government’s importation of “galunggong” (round scad), which did not result in a decrease in prices.

“The retail price of galunggong remains to be P250 to P300 per kilogram amid the importation of around 35,000 MT of the same fish species,” it said.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2006758/imports-seen-as-solution-as-agri-losses-hit-p10b>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

## **Lower rice prices coming in 2025 – think tank**

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 02:05 AM November 19, 2024

Global rice prices are projected to decline next year following India’s lifting of rice export ban and favorable weather conditions amid looming La Niña.

In an emailed commentary, Fitch group subsidiary BMI said it had lowered its average rice forecast to \$14.20 per hundredweight (cwt) for Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT)-listed second-month rough rice futures in 2025. It noted that the previous projection of \$14.85 per cwt was “too bullish” given the recent market conditions.

It also retained its price forecast for CBOT-listed second-month rough rice futures this year at \$16.35 per cwt.

BMI attributed the reduced global price estimate to India’s resumption of rice exports and an anticipated global record harvest.

“The international rice sector is set to loosen in [2025], which, along with increased export supplies from India, will see average price levels decline,” BMI said in its emailed commentary.

It pegged international rice production at 534 million metric tons in 2025, higher than its estimate of 521 million MT for this year.

“We expect that the global rice sector will remain in surplus throughout our forecast period, following the generation of two rare consecutive deficits in [2022] and [2023],” the research firm said.

It also cited India’s record harvest and the expected positive effect of the anticipated mild La Niña event on rice production in Southeast Asia in the fourth quarter of this year.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Monday that imports could surpass 4 million MT in 2024 as successive typhoons caused extensive damage to local harvests, including the staple food.

The volume of Philippine rice imports may reach or exceed more than 4 million metric tons by the end of this year, Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said in an interview.

Despite the massive impact of typhoons such as Severe Tropical Storm Kristine and Super Typhoon Leon to the farm sector, pegged at more than P10 billion, De Mesa said retail rice prices may stabilize due to increased rice purchases from abroad.

“Bagamat malaki yung losses sa rice but this can be easily compensated nung ating importation (Although the rice sector sustained substantial losses, this can be easily compensated by our importation),” De Mesa said.

And it’s possible that the volume would increase further because the bulk of imports would arrive during the last quarter, he told reporters.

De Mesa also said the reduced import duties on rice and the continued decline in global rice prices would bode well for the country, creating stability in volume and retail prices.

So far, the country imported 3.896 million of rice between January and Nov. 7 this year, with nearly 80 percent coming from Vietnam, according to the Bureau of Plant Industry.

The volume already breached the record-high import volume of 3.83 million MT in 2022 and last year’s 3.6 million MT.

Furthermore, the figure was about a million metric ton away from the US Department of Agriculture’s recent estimate of 5 million MT for this year.

<https://business.inquirer.net/490824/lower-rice-prices-coming-in-2025-think-tank>

## BUSINESS WORLD:

# Vegetable prices to remain high after typhoons

November 18, 2024 | 9:15 pm



PHILSTAR FILE PHOTO

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Monday that prices of lowland vegetables are expected to remain elevated due to the consecutive typhoons that traversed key farming areas this month.

“The price of vegetables remains elevated, especially for lowland vegetables, because the (vegetable growing) areas have been affected by typhoons,” Agriculture Assistant Secretary and Spokesperson Arnel V. de Mesa told reporters at a briefing.

## ADVERTISING

The Philippines has logged six typhoons entering its Area of Responsibility in November, according to the government weather service, known as PAGASA.

The latest storm to hit the country was Super Typhoon Man-Yi (Philippine name: Pepito).

“After typhoons, vegetable prices immediately increase about 10% to 15%; right now they are consistently high,” he added.

## ADVERTISING

According to DA price monitors in Metro Manila market as of Nov. 15, the price of bitter melon (*ampalaya*) was as high as P200 per kilo, string beans (*sitaw*) P160 per kilo, Chinese cabbage P140, squash P80, eggplant P220, and tomatoes P230.

A month earlier, bitter melon prices topped out at P140 per kilo, string beans P100, Chinese cabbage P120, squash P70, eggplant P130, and tomatoes P170.

Mr. De Mesa said that among the affected lowland vegetable growing areas were Nueva Vizcaya, Cagayan, Central Luzon, and Quezon, Laguna, and Batangas provinces.

“Region 3 and the Southern Tagalog have been hit hard by the typhoons. So most likely the prices for vegetables will remain high,” he added.

According to a DA bulletin, the initial agricultural damage inflicted by typhoons Toraji (Nika) and Usagi (Ofel) was estimated at P248.47 million on lost volume of 8,504 metric tons.

The most affected commodity group was high-value crops, with lost volume at 5,946 MT, valued at P97.72 million. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/11/18/635809/vegetable-prices-to-remain-high-after-typhoons/>

**BUSINESS WORLD:**

# Rice traders capturing benefits of low tariffs — FFF

November 18, 2024 | 9:15 pm



A man arranges sacks of rice at a storage facility in Marikina City. — PHILIPPINE STAR/WALTER BOLLOZOS

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

IMPORTERS are cornering much of the value from the lowering of rice tariffs, with prices not falling as much as they should have, a farmers' federation said.

“Right now, the benefit from the lower tariffs is being captured mostly by importers, wholesalers and retailers,” Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) National Manager Raul Q. Montemayor said via Viber. “So one could argue that putting the tariff back to 35% will not lead to higher prices but will only lessen traders’ profits.”

The lowered tariffs are subject to review every four months.

The government lowered rice import tariffs via executive order in June to 15% from 35% until 2028, touting it as an inflation-containment measure. The intention had been to pass on the tariff savings to consumers, thereby dampening growth in the Consumer Price Index, of which food makes up the largest component.

The arrival of rice shipments charged the lower tariff coincides with the softening of global rice markets, raising the prospect of even lower prices by the start of 2025.

“Rice prices could remain lower with... world rice prices hovering around 2.5-year lows,” Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort said via Viber.

Former Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar said rice prices could fall to between P45 and P50 per kilo “if the imports arrive on time.

Roehlano M. Briones, a senior research fellow with the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, said via Viber that he sees rice prices posting further declines until next year, citing the decline in world prices.”

Executive Order No. 62 took effect on July 5, The first four-month review has yet to be scheduled.

In a report, Fitch Solutions’ unit BMI said international rice prices are expected to decline in 2025 due to the easing of India’s ban on white rice exports.

In September India’s Directorate of Foreign Trade announced the lifting of the export ban on non-basmati white rice, citing ample inventory levels.

Last month, the Indian government also removed the minimum export price, which had been set at \$490 per metric ton (MT).

BMI forecast global rice prices next year to decline to \$14.2 per hundredweight (cwt) on average. Its previous forecast had been \$14.85 per cwt.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said that global rice prices have dropped to below \$500 per MT from the \$630 per MT reported in January.

The DA said that rice prices will remain stable with retailers expected to cut prices to P42 per kilogram.

According to its price monitors, well-milled rice in Metro Manila markets as of Nov. 15 fetched P42 to P53 per kilo, against P45 to P54 a year earlier.

Regular-milled sold for between P40 and P50 per kilo, against the P33-P50 per kilo price range registered a year prior.

“Well-milled rice around P42 per kilo will provide a happy balance between our goal of ensuring our farmers get a decent return for their hard work and consumers have access to affordably priced food, especially rice,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said in a statement on Monday.

Last week, the DA said that Metro Manila retailers committed to limit their profits on regular and well milled rice to between P3 and P5 per kilo.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary and Spokesperson Arnel V. de Mesa said in a briefing that imports are expected to make up for the anticipated drop in domestic rice production.

“*Malaking bagay ’yung pagbaba ng taripa at ’yung patuloy ng pagbaba ng presyo sa international market* (The drop in tariffs and the continued drop in prices in the international market are a big deal),” Mr. De Mesa added.



“(Lower prices will) likely be sustained especially if the price continues to decrease in the international market,” he said.

The DA is projecting palay (unmilled rice) production to decline to 19.41 million metric tons (MMT), down 3.24% from a year earlier, due to losses caused by El Niño-induced dry conditions and the typhoons that hit the country towards the end of the year.

“The projected supply gap will have to be addressed by imports,” he added.

The Philippines is projected to import 5.1 MMT next year, according to the US Department of Agriculture.

According to the Bureau of Plant Industry, rice imports amounted to 3.9 MMT as of Nov. 7.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/11/18/635808/rice-traders-capturing-benefits-of-low-tariffs-fff/>

**REMATE:**

# Presyo ng gulay sumirit sa kasagsagan ng mga bagyo

November 18, 2024 16:24



Bulacan – Tatlong pangunahing gulay ang tumaas sa lalawigan ito sa kasagsagan ng mga bagyong sumalanta nitong nakaraang Linggo sa mga probinsiya sa Norte.

Ayon sa maggugulay sa palengke sa bayan ng Bulacan, ang mga gulay na talong, ampalaya at kamatis ay tumaas ng humigit kalahating porsiyento.

Nabatid na ang presyo ng talong ay umabot sa P1,300 per bundle o P130 ang kilo na naglalaro lamang kamakailan sa P60 hanggang P70 per kilo.

Pumalo naman sa P1,200 ang bundle ng ampalaya mula sa dating P600 hanggang P500 habang ang kamatis ay naglalaro pataas sa P120 per kilo mula sa P70 kamakailan.

Dahil dito, naglalaro sa P5 hanggang P8 ang piraso ng maliit na kamatis habang nasa P12 ang katamtamang laki nito.

Aabot naman sa P30 ang piraso ng di-kalahang ampalaya at nasa P20 ang piraso ng talong, ayon sa ilang sa sari-sari store o retail store na humahango sa palengke ng Balagtas.

Sinasabing posibleng magpatuloy ang pagsirit ng presyo ng mga nasabing mga gulay matapos ang pananalanta ng mga bagyo gaya ni Super typhoon Pepito na tumama sa mga probinsiya sa Norte na pangunahing nagsusuplay ng gulay sa lalawigan. (*Dick Mirasol III*)

<https://remate.ph/presyo-ng-gulay-sumirit-sa-kasagsagan-ng-mga-bagyo/>

**MANILA STANDARD:**

# **FAO: Agri-food integration key in climate crisis**

By FAO News

November 18, 2024, 6:55 pm

BAKU, Azerbaijan—The only way to reduce carbon emissions and restore nature on the path to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius is to transform our agri-food systems, the director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), told the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) here.

This transformation to more efficient, more inclusive, more resilient and more sustainable global agri-food systems, according to FAO chief Qu Dongyu, is increasingly recognized as essential for achieving the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The shift “holds solutions for the climate crisis and the interlinked challenges of food, water, land and biodiversity,” Qu told a High-Level Party Event entitled Cutting Carbon, Adapting Food Systems and Restoring Nature on the Path to 1.5C.

Every year, countries participating in the climate convention inform FAO about how the climate crisis is severely affecting their agri-food systems. Farmers, herders, fisherfolk, and producers rely on these systems for their income, food, and nutrition. They are on the frontlines of the climate crisis, and all too often, are among the 730 million people facing hunger today.

Transforming agri-food systems requires more financing and investments that reach agricultural communities, leveraging private investments and help in repurposing agricultural investments, the FAO chief said.

Qu stressed that agri-food systems must be integrated into national plans and prioritized in multilateral environmental agreements. Every Nationally Determined Contribution should reflect the full potential of climate action from agrifood system transformation.

Looking ahead, FAO proposes to reconvene at COP30 to discuss how to accelerate efforts to combat deforestation, which is a critical aspect of the climate action needed for transforming agrifood systems, the Director-General said.

COP29 has been coined the Finance COP and not without good reason, as a major focus of the negotiations is climate finance. Financing and investment are insufficient for agrifood systems

transformation. Directing finance to agri-food systems and ensuring this finance effectively reaches agricultural communities is critical.

For this reason Qu spoke at several FAO-led events on climate finance. In a separate High-Level Party Event in Baku focused on accelerating climate finance for resilient agrifood systems in fragile and conflict-affected countries, Qu highlighted that conflict, along with climate and economic crises, pushed the number of people facing hunger to 733 million in 2023, with one in five residing in Africa. Additionally, 135 million people are experiencing acute food insecurity in 20 conflict-affected countries or territories.

“Building and financing resilient agrifood systems in fragile and conflict-affected areas addresses climate and food crises, and saves the lives and livelihoods of millions of people,” Qu said. “Yet, not enough is being invested in these win-win solutions.”

Qu noted that in 2022, agrifood systems received \$29 billion—just 23 percent of total climate-related development finance. To meet net-zero targets, agrifood systems require approximately \$1 trillion annually until 2030. It is countries in fragile settings that feel this funding gap the most, he said.

“We must scale up support and financing urgently to enhance adaptation and build resilience in fragile and conflict-affected countries,” Qu said. Climate action is possible and “can help promote development and build peace.” **FAO News**

<https://manilastandard.net/spotlight/environmental-and-sustainability/314524986/fao-agri-food-integration-key-in-climate-crisis.html>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# **DA: Rice production to fall below estimate**

**By Janine Alexis Miguel**

**November 19, 2024**

DOMESTIC rice production is expected to fall below 19.4 million metric tons (MT) this year due to damage caused by successive typhoons, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Monday.

The damage caused by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine and Super Typhoon Ofel alone totaled P6 billion with 100,242 hectares affected, corresponding to a production loss of 516,438 MT — equivalent to 2.5 percent of the total production target for 2024.

The toll is expected to increase after Super Typhoon Pepito struck over the weekend.

"The typhoons are successive so it is difficult for those who grow corn and high-value crops, especially vegetables to recover, so the prices of vegetables in the markets are still somewhat elevated," Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said.

Rice imports, which stood at 3.9 million metric tons (MT) as of Nov. 7, will help mitigate the impact, he added.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has said that the Philippines could import a record rice volume of around 5.1 million this year.

The DA initially projected palay output to reach 20.44 million MT this year, higher than 2023's record 20.06 million MT. It cut the forecast to

19.4 million MT due to the effects of the El Niño weather pattern earlier this year.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has said that the country's rice program was being recalibrated to deliver higher yields. The initiative includes identifying areas for enhancement, distribution of improved seeds, expansion of irrigation systems, and adjustments to rice cropping schedules.

The USDA projects the Philippines to produce around 12.3 million MT of milled rice this year, lower than their previous estimate of 12.7 million MT.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/19/business/top-business/da-rice-production-to-fall-below-estimate/2006525>

**ABANTE TONITE:**

## **Mga rice retailer sa Metro Manila inawat sa taas-presyo**

Kinausap ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang mga rice retailer sa Metro Manila para hindi magtaas ng presyo ng regular at well-milled rice.

Nagresulta umano ito sa pagbaba ng presyo ng bigas sa National Capital Region (NCR).

“Kausap naman natin iyong presidents at vice presidents ng associations ng retailers sa NCR na kumbaga, nag-agree tayo sa profit margin,” sabi ni DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa sa phone interview ng Philippine News Agency (PNA).

“Doon sa monitoring natin last week hanggang ngayon, marami naman iyong sumusunod doon sa P42 at P45,” aniya.

Batay sa selling price ng bigas, binigyan umano ang mga retailer ng P3 hanggang P5 per kilo na tubo para sa imported na bigas sa ilalim ng 15% tariff cut nito.

Sa kabila nito, nakapagtala pa rin ang DA Bantay Presyo ng P50 at P54 per kilo ng local at imported na regular at well-milled rice hanggang noong Nobyembre 15.

Hinimok naman ni De Mesa ang mga retailer na sumunod sa napagkasunduan nilang profit margin para sa kapakanan ng mga konsyumer.

“We will continuously dialogue with them para maging consistent at ma-sustain itong effort na napagkasunduan,” ayon kay De Mesa.

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/11/18/mga-rice-retailer-sa-metro-manila-inawat-sa-taas-presyo/>