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MANILA BULLETIN:

‘Be RICEponsible’: It’s National Rice Awareness Month

BY [MANILA BULLETIN](#)

Nov 21, 2024 09:01 AM



Rice is a staple food in the Filipino diet. It is eaten with every meal, some consuming more of it than others, while a few intentionally regulate their consumption as part of a personal diet. Despite dietary restrictions or financial constraints, a bowl of rice is included in a traditional Filipino meal. Filipinos consume an average of 118 kg. of rice per person annually.

However, growing up with rice has also made many people forget its importance, and the farmers’ important role in working to have that staple coming to our tables.

The amount of rice wasted is significant, it is one of the three items that cause our food waste problem, said a study conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI). The same agency said each Filipino wastes an average of three tablespoons, or nine grams of rice daily, which is equivalent to 3.3 kilos per year.

This contributes to climate change. Food waste that ends up in landfills decomposes and releases methane, a greenhouse gas 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide in trapping heat, the Climate Change Commission said.

The country celebrates National Rice Awareness Month every November, pursuant to Proclamation 524 issued in 2004, to spread awareness on the value of rice. To each of us, the celebration is a reminder to be responsible consumers and avoid rice wastage. It is also a time to spread information on the value of consuming local rice varieties which is healthier and will support local farmers.

The celebration’s theme “Be RICEponsible” was designed activities to heighten public awareness on efforts to attain rice self-sufficiency and address malnutrition and poverty.

A significant step to ensure rice sufficiency while avoiding food wastage would be to require restaurants to offer half-rice orders. Several cities around the country have already passed local ordinances on that. But a law that will mandate the half-rice serving in all restaurants around the country will strengthen efforts to cut food waste, promote healthier eating habits, and secure our rice supply.

In 2013, then-senator Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. filed a bill, “Senate Bill 1863 or the Anti-Rice Wastage Act of 2013” proposing penalties for restaurants that refuse to serve less than one cup of rice per customer. The bill was reintroduced in the House of Representatives last year. Its primary objectives are to minimize food waste, promote balanced and sustainable eating habits, and encourage healthier meal portions for Filipinos.

The month’s activities, led by the Department of Agriculture, will also encourage the consumption of brown rice and other locally produced rice varieties, which will support our farmers. The Philippines has become a big importer of rice.

The health benefits of brown rice are many. “Compared with white rice, brown rice (unpolished rice) is nutritionally superior because its bran layer contains higher amounts of protein, dietary fiber, B vitamins, Vitamin E, minerals, and antioxidants,” a PhilRice information material for the month’s celebration said.

Rice comes to our tables because of the farmers who cultivate a farm for about four months, contending with pests and diseases and bad weather. The average age of the farmer today is 57, indicating that their children have sought other livelihoods outside the farm.

If the next generation of food producers are leaving the farms, who will produce our food?

Being RICEponsible is not only for the consumers but also for government to continue pushing policies to support the farmers, and to conduct information campaigns to encourage healthy eating of rice.

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<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/21/be-ric-eponsible-it-s-national-rice-awareness-month>

MANILA BULLETIN:

A push for food labels that are easy to understand

BY [YVETTE TAN](#)

Nov 22, 2024 07:17 AM

AVANT GARDENER



The Philippines is in a precarious position health-wise. Not only are many Filipinos at risk for malnutrition, many are equally at risk for obesity, which itself is a form of malnutrition.

“[According to the National Nutrition survey done by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute], three out of 10 children ages six months to 12 years old have been stunted or suffered from chronic malnutrition for the last 30 years. When children are stunted, they’re not stunted only in physical standing, but also in mental and emotional standing. So you could just say that if this was going on during the last 30 years, our adult workforce would also be stunted... they won’t be as productive and not as intelligent as what we would want them,” Former Department of Health Secretary Jaime Z. Galvez Tan, MD, MPH, the current chairman of Health Futures Foundation Inc. and lead convenor of Healthy Philippines Alliance, said.

“On the other extreme, obesity has been increasing over time... Now one to two out of 10 children are obese. So imagine the Philippines suffering the double burden of malnutrition, because obesity is a form of malnutrition, as well as undernutrition, or chronic malnutrition...”

The health of children today will not only determine the health of the workforce tomorrow but also how much the state will have to spend on citizens with chronic health issues such as obesity and type 2 diabetes that could be avoided by a lifestyle change, which can start with the kind of food we eat.

A lot of Filipinos don’t understand the impact of highly processed food on their diet, or if they do, they might not have enough knowledge on how to make better choices or may not have the emotional bandwidth to do so.

Doc Jimmy and his associates hope to change this.

“Right now, all food in the market, I mean, particularly grocery supermarkets, I would say, are not properly labeled, or if they are labeled, they are so difficult to understand, even by mothers who

are educated,” Doc Jimmy explained. “It’s challenging, and it does not say much... So what if it is five grams of sugar or 10 milligrams of salt. What does it mean to me?”

The two organizations Doc Jimmy heads, together with public interest group ImagineLaw, have collaborated to launch a mass media campaign to spread awareness of the need for food nutrition labels that are easy to understand. They are hoping that public interest will help push for legislative measures.

What they want is simple: Nutritional labels so easy to understand that even a child (or an overworked, overstimulated, exhausted adult) could do it. They are advocating for these labels to be on the front of the package in an octagonal shape to catch the buyer’s eye. Such a presentation will help the buyer make more informed choices.

“We are hopeful that we will get legislation passed before Congress ends... sometime in February,” Doc Jimmy said. “It may look like a shot in the dark, but we are optimistic... But [it does] not, we have the second plan in the new Congress of 2025 where we hope that this will be at the top of the list.”

Doc Jimmy believes that public support is integral, citing public support as the reason behind the success of alcohol and tobacco taxes. He also cites evidence from other countries that legislating food labeling works: “[In] Latin America and South America... they were able to show decreases in childhood obesity [and] childhood malnutrition, and even in adults, also in preventing heart disease, hypertension, cancer, and cardiovascular diseases.”

This does not mean that Filipinos should give up all ultra-processed foods, but rather be aware of the amount they’re taking in. “One pack of noodles is enough for your [daily intake of] salt, or one pack of 3-in-1 coffee is enough for your [daily intake of] sugar,” Doc Jimmy advised.

He also hopes that this change will run parallel to better agricultural policies. “I lament that we are not supportive enough [of our agriculture industry],” he said. “We have enough [local] fruits [and] vegetables... to be available at all times of the year... [but] our Philippine fruits, are more expensive than the imported fruits. I think it’s about time we also invest a lot in our food production that is sustainable... It all goes back to our country’s health.

Food label advocates know that it will be an uphill battle, but they hope that food manufacturers understand that this will benefit everyone.

“This is a big challenge,” Doc Jimmy said. “We want our message to the food companies [to be] ‘You are not our enemy. We are not antagonists.’ I think we all want a healthy Philippines.... Let us all be part of nation-building. Let us all be part of a healthy future for all Filipinos.”

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/22/a-push-for-food-labels-that-are-easy-to-understand>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

‘No price cap on lechon despite increase in demand’

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

November 22, 2024 | 12:00am



I was looking at the import numbers the other day, it showed that there is 10 percent more importation of pork this year than last year but it is not significant as it is only 10 percent, considering many pigs died (because of African swine fever or ASF),” Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. added.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. yesterday said that the Department of Agriculture (DA) has no plan to implement a price cap on lechon or roasted pig amid the expected increase in demand during the holidays.

He also assured the public of enough supply of pork, noting that the importation of frozen pork has increased by 10 percent this year compared to last year.

“I was looking at the import numbers the other day, it showed that there is 10 percent more importation of pork this year than last year but it is not significant as it is only 10 percent, considering many pigs died (because of African swine fever or ASF),” Tiu Laurel added.

He noted that in General Santos City alone, only 1.8 million pigs out of eight million survived because of the ASF outbreak.

The agriculture chief expects the retail price of pork will slightly increase because of the demand.

Based on DA's monitoring in Metro Manila markets, the retail price of pork ranged between P270 and P360 per kilo and pork belly between P310 and P400 per kilo.

"We have so much supply (of frozen pork) which arrived in the piers, so it (retail price) should stabilize," Tiu Laurel said.

Hog raisers also assured consumers that the country would have sufficient pork stocks during the holidays.

He said local pig raisers ramped up their production in the past three months to ensure that there would be no supply issues come December, when demand for pork is usually higher compared to other months of the year. – **Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/22/2402088/no-price-cap-lechon-despite-increase-demand>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Re-nationalization of agricultural services pushed

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

November 22, 2024 | 12:00am



Senate President Francis Escudero answers questions from the media on October 29, 2024.

Senate of the Philippines via Youtube

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Francis Escudero and Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. yesterday agreed to work together for the renationalization of the agriculture sector after many of its services were devolved to the local government units (LGUs).

“Earlier, Secretary Laurel and I were discussing if the administration will push for the renationalization of the agriculture services... so that the DA (Department of Agriculture) will handle all the programs in the agriculture sector,” Escudero said during the 25th anniversary of the farmers’ group Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. (PCAFI) at Club Filipino in San Juan.

He recalled that the programs related to the agriculture sector were devolved after the passage of the Local Government Code of 1991.

“Since I became a congressman in 1998, I have filed a bill to renationalize agriculture. The problem of our agriculture is that it was devolved, including health, under the Local Government Code of 1991,” Escudero said.

“The hands, arms and the feet of the agriculture department and health were removed,” he added.

In the current bureaucratic setup, LGUs have the power to enact policies that are not aligned with national policies that could be detrimental to the country’s agriculture and food supply. Meanwhile, the DA can only implement its programs on a regional level.

“The DA cannot control the LGUs when it comes to (the latter’s) agriculture policies,” Escudero pointed out.

He added that the agriculture sector is sidelined when it is not part of the priorities of the sitting LGU officials.

“That is the reality on the ground. We hope that it will be the solution of the administration to push for renationalization of agriculture so that the agriculture secretary will be empowered again,” he said.

For his part, Tiu Laurel supports the return of the devolved agricultural functions to the DA.

“It (renationalization of the agricultural services) is better. The DA now is an agency where it has many generals, colonels but it has no sergeants. It has no foot soldiers. It is very difficult to implement programs. There are good LGUs and good provincial agriculturists all over the country but it is very difficult to coordinate with other LGUs,” Tiu Laurel added.

He added the reversion of the functions would allow the DA to immediately implement its programs down to the barangay level and make the process “simpler” to achieve the government’s goals.

“We don’t need a higher budget. We have enough people to do it. We just need the mandate that we can put people up to that level. I am not asking for more people, I am not asking for more budget,” he said.

Meanwhile, Tiu Laurel announced in the same event the creation of a 10-man council to address the issues affecting the local agriculture sector.

“What I want and my order yesterday is that by Jan. 15 (2025), it will start its monthly meetings,” Tiu Laurel said.

He invited both the PCAFI and another farmers’ group, Federation of Free Farmers (FFF), to join the council.

“The composition of the 10-man council include two from the government, two from the DA, one director and one assistant secretary, one from PCAFI, one from FFF, then the rest will be farmers, processors and exporters,” Tiu Laurel said.

The PCAFI is headed by Danilo Fausto while the FFF is led by former agriculture secretary Leonardo Montemayor.

He said that the main task of the council is to tackle the problems affecting all local crops, granting farmers the opportunity to meet monthly on these problems and come up with ideas and answers for their concerns.

“Everybody has a set of schedule every month to tackle their issues and ideas so that every month, a decision will be made,” he added.

Among the issues besetting the agriculture sector is the extent of damage brought by the successive typhoons.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/22/2402104/re-nationalization-agricultural-services-pushed>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Expensive food

BUSINESS SNIPPETS - Marianne Go - The Philippine Star

November 22, 2024 | 12:00am

According to the World Bank, domestic food price inflation remains high in many low- and middle-income countries.

Inflation higher than five percent is experienced in 70 percent of low-income countries (6.2 percentage points lower), 47.8 percent of lower-middle-income countries (three percentage points lower), 36 percent of upper-middle-income countries (two percentage points lower) and 9.1 percent of high-income countries (0.2 percentage points higher).

In real terms, food price inflation exceeded overall inflation in 59.8 percent of the 164 countries where data are available.

Since the World Bank's last update on Oct. 18, the agricultural and cereal price indices rose by one and two percent, respectively; the export price index remained unchanged. Maize prices increased by seven percent, while wheat and rice prices fell by five percent, respectively.

On a year-on-year basis, maize prices are nine percent lower and rice prices are eight percent lower, while wheat prices are one percent higher. Compared to January 2020, maize prices are nine percent higher, wheat prices are three percent lower, and rice prices are 29 percent higher.

The November 2024 Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) Market Monitor highlighted various price fluctuations and policy changes in global agriculture in October. Wheat prices reached multi-month highs, largely because of weather-related planting delays in the northern hemisphere, but later eased as conditions improved.

Maize prices also increased slightly, even with swift harvest progress in the United States, whereas rice and soybean prices fell. In policy moves, India removed the minimum export price for non-basmati white rice, and Bangladesh and Turkey relaxed import restrictions on maize, rice, and vegetable oils.

In the most recent Commodity Markets Outlook, the World Bank projects a four percent decline in the agriculture commodity prices index in 2025 before stabilizing in 2026, after a two percent increase this year.

The report also summarizes concerns about food insecurity and notes that the world remains far from achieving the goal of zero hunger by 2030. Conflict, extreme weather and economic shocks are the major drivers of food insecurity. It is projected that food prices will decrease by four percent in 2025 before stabilizing in 2026.

The latest Hunger Hotspots Report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the World Food Program (WFP) warns of worsening acute food insecurity in 16 hunger hotspots (covering 22 countries and territories) that will require urgent action between now and May 2025. Conflict, climate and the economy are the primary drivers of food insecurity. Conflict continues to be the primary driver of hunger in 15 hotspots.

The Philippines, thankfully, is not yet among the countries suffering from acute food insecurity.

Specifically for Asia, the World Bank reports that East Asia and the Pacific remain highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with extreme weather events becoming more frequent and severe.

Weather forecasters predict that La Niña conditions will prevail from October onwards, contributing to a chance of above-normal rainfall in several countries, including the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Last month, Tropical Storm Trami or Typhoon Kristine hit several provinces on Luzon Island in the Philippines, resulting in widespread flooding and landslides, leaving at least 126 dead and missing. Many areas remain isolated, with people in need of rescue.

The cost of damage to the agricultural sector in the Philippines from Typhoon Kristine was estimated at P3.11 billion, with 74,554 farmers affected across 11 regions.

Damaged farmlands covered 72,329 hectares, with a production loss of 160,107 metric tons. The rice sector was the hardest hit, with losses of 152,440 metric tons and a value of P2.87 billion. High-value crops suffered P121.08 million in damage. Damage to agricultural infrastructure, including irrigation facilities and other farm structures, totaled P67.66 million.

The Department of Agriculture, however, reported that at least 60 to 70 percent of farmers in the affected areas had already harvested their palay (unhusked rice) before Kristine made landfall. However, the DA also predicted that palay production would likely drop by 3.24 percent this year due to the continued onslaught of tropical cyclones.

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, trade-related policies imposed by countries have surged. The global food crisis has been partially worsened by the growing number of food and fertilizer trade restrictions put in place by countries aiming to increase domestic supply and reduce prices. As of now, 17 countries have implemented 22 food export bans, and eight countries have implemented 12 export-limiting measures.

The World Bank's food and nutrition security portfolio now spans 90 countries. It includes both short-term interventions such as expanding social protection and longer-term resilience initiatives such as boosting productivity and climate-smart agriculture. The Bank's intervention is expected to benefit 296 million people.

In May 2022, the World Bank Group and the G7 Presidency co-convened the Global Alliance for Food Security, which aims to catalyze an immediate and concerted response to the unfolding

global hunger crisis. The Alliance has developed the publicly accessible Global Food and Nutrition Security Dashboard, which provides timely information for global and local decision-makers to help improve coordination of the policy and financial response to the food crisis.

Last year, the heads of the FAO, IMF, World Bank Group, WFP and WTO released a third joint statement calling for preventive action against a worsening food and nutrition security crisis, with further urgent actions required to (i) rescue hunger hotspots, (ii) facilitate trade, improve the functioning of markets, and enhance the role of the private sector, and (iii) reform and repurpose harmful subsidies with careful targeting and efficiency.

They appealed for countries to balance short-term urgent interventions with longer-term resilience efforts as they respond to the crisis.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/11/22/2401978/expensive-food>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Marcos condones P206 million debt of farmers

[Alexis Romero](#) - The Philippine Star

November 22, 2024 | 12:00am



President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. presides over a situational briefing on the effects of Severe Tropical Storm #EntengPH at the NDRRMC headquarters in Quezon City on September 4, 2024.

PPA pool photos by Yummie Dingding

MANILA, Philippines — More than P200 million worth of debts incurred by over 2,000 agrarian reform beneficiaries in Pampanga were condoned by the government yesterday.

President Marcos led the distribution of 2,939 condonation certificates and 30 certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) to about 2,500 beneficiaries in Bacolor.

Marcos said the condonation would help ease the plight of farmers hit by recent typhoons.

The beneficiaries were freed from debt amounting to P206.38 million.

“This covers the amortization, interest and other surcharges tied to your farm lands for a long time. Starting today, we are condoning your debts that stemmed from the land given to you under the agrarian reform (program),” Marcos said during the ceremony. “This is a step toward strengthening the agriculture sector and raising the quality of life of our farmers.”

As of Nov. 17, the Department of Agrarian Reform has distributed 41,675 condonation certificates, and 160,516 CLOAs from July 2022 up to this month.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/11/22/2402045/marcos-condones-p206-million-debt-farmers>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Farmers urge caution on food importation

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 03:30 PM November 21, 2024



COOL SCENE Farmers in Talakag, Bukidnon, use horses to transport produce from their farms, as Mt. Kitanglad, a national park, looms in the distance in this November 2023 photo. The cool climate and sweeping landscape of Talakag make it one of the favorite destinations for agritourism in Northern Mindanao. —BOBBY E. LAGSA

The Department of Agriculture (DA) should consult stakeholders to determine the standing inventory and the extent of damage caused by typhoons before deciding whether or not to import food, a farmers' group said.

“We would have rather the DA spokesperson consulted first the sectors and industry per commodity to know first hand [the] extent and actual damage per commodity [and the] inventory and situation per commodity across the value chain,” Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (Sinag) executive director Jayson Cainglet said in a statement on Wednesday.

Cainglet said the consultation would also help the DA determine the immediate and priority interventions as well as possible collaboration between the agency and industry stakeholders.

“There is no problem to import if there is a need. Unfortunately, the issue of high retail prices is always equated [with] the need to import,” he added.

Cainglet also said the DA might want to look into the disconnect between farmgate (selling price between farmers and traders) and retail prices amid concern over elevated retail prices.

Association of Fresh Fish Traders of the Philippines president Roderick Santos said there’s need to import fish or retail prices of fish will surge.

According to Santos, local supply dwindled even before the consecutive typhoons had hit the country and the government implemented a temporary fishing ban in major fishing grounds.

“Although, in general, hindi tayo sumusuporta sa importation, ngayon lang na extraordinary ‘yung circumstances (Although in general we do not support importation, the circumstances now are extraordinary). So there is a need to import fish),” he said in a phone interview.

Santos said the recent storms adversely affected the catch of all subsectors of fisheries.

He added that some of the aquaculture sites, especially in Pangasinan, had been hit by six typhoons.

Fishers’ appeal

Fishers’ group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said on Wednesday that proposals to import small pelagic fish were “unacceptable and baseless” as there were other types of fish that can be purchased from the markets.

“Rising fish prices are not enough reason to authorize importation. Because of the arrival of 30,000 metric tons (MT) of imported fish from October, the retail price of the so-called ‘poor man’s fish’ in the markets is reaching P300 per kilogram,” the group said in a statement translated from Filipino.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said on Tuesday the DA was considering to import fish to prevent a potential price hike and stabilize food supply.

De Mesa, the DA's spokesperson, said the government agency was studying the proposal to import 8,000 MT of small pelagic fish including round scad, mackerel, moonfish and bonito, which could arrive in the first two weeks of December, if approved.

Although the DA sees no shortage of fish, he said the proposed importation would allow them to avoid any problems that could arise.

The farm sector suffered more than P10 billion in losses following the onslaught of typhoons from "Kristine" to "Pepito" as of writing, based on DA tally. **INQ**

<https://business.inquirer.net/491365/farmers-urge-caution-on-food-importation>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Marcos leads distribution of condonation certificates to farmers

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 02:11 PM November 21, 2024



More than 2,000 agrarian reform beneficiaries in Pampanga province received their Certificates of Land Ownership Award and Certificates of Condonation with Release of Mortgage in a ceremony on Thursday, November 21, 2024. (Courtesy of Luisa Cabato/INQUIRER.net)

BACOLOR, Pampanga — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday led the distribution of Certificates of Condonation with Release of Mortgage (COCROMs) to agricultural reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in this province, freeing them from P206.38-million land amortization.

In a ceremony held at the Don Honorio Ventura State University in Bacolor, Marcos spearheaded the awarding of 2,939 COCROMs to 2,487 ARBs.

Thirty Certificates of Land Ownership Awards were also awarded to 28 ARBs to solidify their ownership of the lands they till.

The distribution of COCROMs is mandated by Republic Act No. 11953, or the New Agrarian Emancipation Act, which frees the ARBs from paying loans and other debts related to their land.

“May our offering today serves as an inspiration for a new chapter in your lives, where not only you and your family will progress — even the whole country will be with you in your success,” Marcos said.

“This is my appeal: Let us unite in planting the seeds of hope for the New Philippines,” he added.

Meanwhile, during his 8th meeting with the Private Sector Advisory Council – Agriculture Sector in Malacañang on Wednesday, Marcos urged state universities and colleges to shift the focus of agriculture students to seed production to help boost agricultural productivity in the country.

“The farmers can take care of the actual growing of seedlings. These new agronomists, agriculturists, can be [the] ones doing seed production,” he said.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2007633/marcos-leads-distribution-of-condonation-certificates-to-farmers>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Storm barrage threatens growth after crops flattened

November 22, 2024 | 12:32 am



RICE FIELDS are flooded after water rose in Laguna de Bay due to recent typhoons. — PHILIPPINE STAR/RYAN BALDEMOR

SIX POWERFUL STORMS late in the season that ravaged crops and drenched vast areas of the Philippines have put the nation on track for record rice imports and raised concerns over elevated food inflation.

From the end of October to mid-November, the storms repeatedly dumped heavy rain over northern regions grappling with widespread flooding and saturated soil that couldn't absorb any more water. The onslaught caused at least \$131 million of crop losses, with rice bearing the brunt of the damage.

The last time six tropical cyclones hit the Philippines over a three-week period was in 1946, according to President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., who said rice imports might climb to a record 4.5 million tons this year to fill supply gaps. The peak of the nation's typhoon season is typically July through October.

"We don't have anything to harvest anymore because of the storms," said Jespher Villegas, a rice farmer in the town of Gonzaga in Cagayan province. His entire crop was submerged in floodwaters and rain is continuing in the region, he added, with his corn and tilapia fish farm also affected.

The Philippines is on the frontline for typhoons in the Asia-Pacific region, with about 20 tropical cyclones forming each year near the archipelago. Some storms make landfall, and some can track toward other countries in the region, soaking coffee crops in Vietnam and shutting stock trading in Taiwan.

Warm seas helped to fuel the most active season in the Western Pacific in seven decades this month, stirring up four typhoons, all of which made landfall in the Philippines. Even before the latest string of tropical cyclones, storms had sapped third-quarter growth and reduced rice production.

RUINED

Nearly 600,000 tons of rough rice crops have been ruined by storms this year, according to the Department of Agriculture's disaster management center. Over half was destroyed by Severe Tropical Storm Trami, which hit the major rice-growing region of Cagayan Valley in October.

RICE

Cagayan Valley and Central Luzon, which account for a third of the nation's rice output, are two regions that were heavily drenched by the six storms. Prolonged rainfall can lead to a favorable environment for "grain-sucking rice bugs" that can attack at any time, the weather bureau warned.

The main rice crop is harvested in the last quarter of the year, and Agriculture Undersecretary Christopher Morales estimates annual output in 2024 may dip by about 1 million tons from a year ago to about 19 million tons. Still, imports are expected to remain elevated next year.

Overseas purchases could be between 4.5 million and 5 million tons next year to cover crop losses and higher consumption from a growing population, said Oscar Tjakra, a senior analyst for Rabobank in Singapore. The Philippines imported 3.6 million tons in 2023, according to government data.

"There's high potential for more rice imports given disruptions to local rice production, which poses upside risk to food inflation and downside risk to economic activity," according to Angelo Taningco, chief economist at Security Bank Corp. in Manila. The storms have also affected tourism, construction, manufacturing, transport and retail trade, he said.

Gross domestic product growth this year would likely come in below the Marcos government's target of at least 6%, Taningco added.

Other crops have been destroyed by weather this year, including more than 350,000 tons of corn and over 112,000 tons of vegetables, according to figures from the government. Warmer temperatures caused by El Niño earlier in 2024 contributed to the damage, which has been exacerbated by recent storms.

Supply shortfalls risk boosting inflation, which accelerated in October on price gains in rice and other food items. To combat further hikes, the government is considering importing fish and vegetables, Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said on Tuesday.

"There's a lot of rice and other crops that have been destroyed and we just have to compensate for that," Mr. Marcos said on Friday. — **Bloomberg**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/bloomberg/2024/11/22/636551/storm-barrage-threatens-growth-after-crops-flattened/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Hog growers see supply of pork building up for year-end holidays

November 21, 2024 | 9:13 pm



REUTERS

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

HOG GROWERS said on Thursday that the supply of pork is building up and will be sufficient to meet demand for the year-end holidays.

“We are assuring our public that... we have enough supply of pork,” National Federation of Hog Farmers, Inc. Chairman Chester Warren Y. Tan told reporters on the sidelines of an event organized by the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food, Inc.

He added that pork demand will be primarily serviced by domestic production, augmented by some imports.

Pork imports during the eight months to August amounted to 450,360 metric tons (MT), according to the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI). Imports of pork made up 49.6% of all meat imports during the period.

“We made sure that in the past two or three months we were prepared for the incoming December season,” Mr. Tan said.

Mr. Tan said that the prevailing farmgate price for live hogs ranged from P185 to P198 per kilo liveweight. This should translate to about P300 to P340 per kilogram in public markets.

In Metro Manila, a kilo of pork belly (*liempo*) was fetched between P330 and P400 per kilo, while pork shoulder (*kasim*) sold for P280 to P360, according to the Department of Agriculture's (DA) price monitors as of Nov. 20.

Mr. Tan added that growth in hog production has been slow in the past two years, as industry output remains dampened by African Swine Fever (ASF).

"But what's important is that there has been an increase in population and production," he added.

During the third quarter, hog production declined 8% to 414,610 MT, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

The Philippines has recently logged a resurgence of ASF cases starting August, prompting the government to fast-track its limited vaccine rollout to commercial and small growers.

The DA has said that the increase in ASF cases in recent months was due to rains and tropical cyclone activity, which may have circulated contaminated water to the farms.

"For the past years, farmers have learned to control ASF, we have guidelines on how to minimize, how to protect our farms. Of course, there is no 100% assurance," Mr. Tan added.

As of Nov. 8, 102 municipalities across 20 provinces had active ASF cases, the BAI reported.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/11/21/636583/hog-growers-see-supply-of-pork-building-up-for-year-end-holidays/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Small quantity' of vegetable imports under study

November 21, 2024 | 9:14 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/ WALTER BOLLOZOS

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Thursday it is looking to import limited quantities of vegetables due to price rises following the consecutive typhoons that hit the country this month.

“We are seeing that we need to import a small quantity of white onions... carrots, tomatoes, and broccoli,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. told reporters on the sidelines of an event organized by the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food, Inc.

Mr. Laurel, however, said the DA has yet to determine the specific volumes it will allow for import.

“There are no final figures yet. But it is being studied by the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI),” he added.

Mr. Laurel has ordered the BPI and the High Value Crops office to monitor prices and supply of vegetables to aid in any decision to intervene in the market. The DA said the increase in vegetable prices was caused by production losses after six consecutive typhoons hit key vegetable growing areas.

Among the affected areas were Nueva Vizcaya, Cagayan, Central Luzon, Quezon, Laguna, and Batangas.

Assistant Secretary and Spokesman Arnel V. de Mesa said vegetable imports typically service demand from the hotel and restaurant industry, while processed vegetables are brought in by food manufacturers.

According to DA price monitors in Metro Manila markets, as of Nov. 20, a kilogram of carrots sold for as much as P230, tomatoes P230, broccoli P470, and white onion P140. A month earlier, carrots sold for as much as P160 per kilo, tomatoes P180, white onion at P140, and broccoli P570. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/11/21/636584/small-quantity-of-vegetable-imports-under-study/>

REMATE:

Agri output palalakasin ng pinaraming seedling nurseries sa bansa

November 21, 2024 16:41



MANILA, Philippines – SINABI ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. na ang pagpaparami sa ‘seedling nurseries’ sa iba’t ibang bahagi ng Pilipinas ay mapakikinabangan ng ‘agriculture, food specialty, at food processing industry’ sa bansa.

Kabilang ang mga ito sa mga bagong estratehiya na nakikita ng pamahalaan na magagamit para bawasan ang pagsandal sa importasyon ng agricultural goods para matustusan ang local demand.

“Nagpulong kami kahapon ng iba’t-ibang ahensya ng gobyerno kasama ang pribadong sektor. Dito nagmungkahi ng mga hakbang na paramihin pa ang ating mga seedling nursery sa buong bansa para mapa-igting pa natin ang pagtatanim ng mga gulay at bigas,” ang sinabi ni Pangulong Marcos sa Bacolor, Pampanga.

Nabanggit ang panukala sa pakikipagpulong ni Pangulong Marcos sa Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC), araw ng Martes, kung saan ang mga unused lands o mga hindi na nagagamit na mga lupaing pag-aari ng State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) ay nakita para muling gamitin para sa seedling production.

“Pampanga, known as the Culinary Capital of the Philippines, would benefit from the initiative,” ang tinuran pa rin ni Pangulong Marcos.

“Sigurado ako na sa ganitong paraan ay makakatulong ito sa ilang pangunahing industriya ninyo rito sa Pampanga, kagaya ng pagsasaka, specialty food, at ang food processing,” lahad nito.

Sa kabilang dako, namahagi ang Pangulo ng 30 na Certificates of Land Ownership (CLOAs) at 2,939 na Certificates of Condonation with Release of Mortgage (COCROMs) para sa 2,500 Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBS) sa nasabing lalawigan.

Sa kabuuan, may 2,487 ARBS ang nakatanggap ng COCROMs habang 28 iba pa ang nakatanggap ng kanilang CLOAs.

Sa kaparehong event, kinilala naman ng Punong Ehekutibo ang papel ng Pampanga sa pag-unlad ng bansa. Binigyang diin ng Chief Executive ang partnership sa pagitan ng public at private sector sa lalawigan sa pamamagitan ng Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty Program.

“Sa tulong ng Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty Program ng gobyerno, isa sa mga kapuri-puring kontribusyon ng inyong probinsya ay ang patuloy na pagsu-supply ng itlog sa ating mga Persons Deprived of Liberty o ‘yung tinatawag na mga PDL sa mga bilangguan o BJMP na facilities,” ang winika ng Pangulo.

“Ang programang ito ay isang halimbawa ng magandang pagtutulungan ng pribadong sektor at ng pamahalaan,” aniya pa rin.

Samantala, ang Pampanga ang nangungunang producer ng mga itlog sa Gitnang Luzon. Ang lalawigan ang bumubuo sa 17.7% ng pangkalahatang produksyon ng itlog sa bansa. *Kris Jose*

<https://remate.ph/agri-output-palalakasin-ng-pinaraming-seedling-nurseries-sa-bansa/>

REMATE:

Checkpoints sa Metro Manila vs ASF, avian influenza aprub sa DA

November 21, 2024 09:23



MANILA, Philippines – Pumayag na ang Department of Agriculture na maglatag ang Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) ng mga livestock, poultry, at meat industry inspection sites sa Metro Manila at mga karatig-lugar.

Ito ay upang maiwasan ang pagkalat ng mga sakit sa hayop.

Sa ilalim ng Administrative Circular No. 10, inatasan ang BAI na makipag-ugnayan sa local government officials sa pamamagitan ng National Veterinary Quarantine Services Division sa paglatag ng quarantine checkpoints upang matukoy ang mga kaso ng sakit gaya ng African Swine Fever (ASF) o avian influenza.

“These inspection sites should serve as a defensive wall against the spread of animal diseases that threaten not only the local livestock and poultry industries but also public health and food security,” sinabi ni DA Secretary Francisco Laurel nitong Miyerkules, Nobyembre 20.

Binanggit ng DA na matapos maperwisyo ang hog industry sa kauna-unahang ASF outbreak noong 2019, muling nakapagtala ng mga kaso ng sakit sa Region 4-A.

Sa datos ng BAI, hanggang noong Nobyembre 8 ay naitala sa Batangas ang pinakamaraming bilang ng mga apektadong barangay na may 66 reported barangays.

Mayroon namang 144 affected barangays sa North Cotabato sa Region.

Patuloy din na banta sa local poultry industry ang avian influenza. Sa datos noong Nobyembre 15 ng BAI, nakita na 134 barangay ang apektado mula sa Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), National Capital Region (NCR), Region 3, at Region 4A.

“Given the severe economic impact on the livestock and poultry industries of bird, ASF and other diseases, it’s crucial to implement stringent disease management protocols and strategies to control their spread,” dagdag ni Laurel.

Inaasahan ang BAI na susuriin nito ang “potential missing links” sa mga checkpoint upang masiguro ang mahigpit na border controls. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/checkpoints-sa-metro-manila-vs-asf-avian-influenza-aprub-sa-da/>

PEOPLE'S JOURNAL:

Ahead of COP29's conclusion, groups call for stronger marine biodiversity protection on World Fisheries Day

Thursday, November 21, 2024 Journal Online



Environmental advocates and fisherfolk communities on Thursday called for stronger protection on marine biodiversity on World Fisheries Day, days before the 29th UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) approaches its end.

“The Philippines, as an archipelagic nation, relies heavily on its fisheries sector for food and livelihood. With the increasing threats our oceans are facing today, fisherfolk and coastal communities are also at risk. This World Fisheries Day, we stand in solidarity our communities facing the burden of the destructive impacts of marine pollution, biodiversity loss, and intensifying climate disasters,” said Gerry Arances, Executive Director of think tank Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development ([CEED](#)).

COP29 is a key moment in shaping global commitments on climate financing. The groups emphasized the need to protect marine biodiversity by halting further fossil fuel developments, particularly in critical marine biodiversity hotspots.

“As COP29 nears its end, we are urging world leaders to prioritize biodiversity and communities of vulnerable Global South countries in the anticipated climate finance text, and to follow through with previous commitments made to transition away from fossil fuels,” added Arances.

In a recent study by CEED, the marine biodiversity hotspot [Verde Island Passage](#) is touted as the epicenter of fossil gas expansion in the Philippines, with 5 existing fossil gas plants, 10 proposed gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) power plants, and 2 operating LNG import terminals, with 3 more in the pipeline.

“Nakakadismaya na sa pagdiriwang namin ng World Fisheries Day, ay ang dagat na aming pinagkukuhanan ng kabuhayan ay nasisira dahil sa fossil fuels. Kaming mga mangingisda sa VIP ay nasa panganib kung magpapatuloy ang pagdami ng mga proyektong ito. Sana naman ay pakinggan kami na unahin naman ang ating karagatan at ang aming komunidad,” said Maximo Bayubay, Vice President for External Affairs of Bukluran ng Mangingisda sa Batangas (BMB), a local fishfolk organization in one of the provinces spanning the VIP.

[It is disappointing that while we are celebrating World Fisheries Day, the ocean that is our source of livelihood, is facing destruction from fossil fuel developments. We, fisherfolk depending on the VIP for our living, are at a critical stake as these developments continue. We hope that our voices will be heard and that our oceans and our communities will be prioritized.]

Since the last week of October, the Philippines have been battered by six typhoons, including four this month—the first time such an occurrence had been observed since 1951 according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

“Ang mga nagdaang bagyo sa ating bansa nitong mga nakaraang linggo ay senyales na tayo ay talagang bulnerable sa lumalalang krisis sa klima. Nasaksihan na namin ito 11 taon na ang nakakalipas noong tinamaan ng Yolanda ang aming probinsya, pero hindi pa rin tayo natuto. Patuloy pa rin ang mga gawaing nakasisira sa kalikasan, kabilang na ang paggamit ng fossil fuels, na nagpaparumi sa ating karagatan at nagpapalala sa mga sakuna dulot ng klima. Hindi natin gusto pa ng isa pang Yolanda – panahon na para kumilos at protektahan ang komunidad at karagatan sa patuloy na pagkasira,” said Dario Magason, Council Member of Burubligay han Gudti Nga mangirisda ha Sinirangan Bisayas (BUGSAY), a coalition of fisherfolks in Leyte.

[The recent typhoons that devastated the Philippines in the past few weeks are proof that we are indeed vulnerable in this climate crisis. We have already witnessed this 11 years ago when Yolanda struck our province, but we have yet to fully heed its lessons. Environmentally destructive activities, including fossil fuels, still pollute our oceans, contributing to intensifying climate disasters. We do not want another Yolanda – we must act now need to protect our communities and oceans from further destruction.]

<https://journal.com.ph/ahead-of-cop29s-conclusion-groups-call-for-stronger-marine-biodiversity-protection-on-world-fisheries-day/>

MANILA STANDARD:

DA forming new council to boost support for farmers

By Othel V. Campos

November 21, 2024, 8:00 pm

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. unveiled plans to establish a consultative council aimed at strengthening support for millions of farmers and fishermen, ensuring a more inclusive and effective approach to addressing agricultural challenges.

The initiative seeks to enhance collaboration among government agencies, private sector representatives and key stakeholders, while streamlining feedback mechanisms to foster more responsive agricultural planning.

The council, set to begin operations by January 2025, will consist of a 10-member body with representatives from the Department of Agriculture (DA), private sector organizations and groups like the Federation of Free Farmers (FFF).

“These councils will discuss every major crop and sector issue, generating ideas on how to improve and strategize effectively,” Tiu Laurel said as the keynote speaker during the 25th anniversary of the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. (PCAFI) Thursday.

“The more we talk, the more ideas emerge on how to make things better,” he said. While calling for the support of PCAFI and the Federation of Free Farmers (FFF), Tiu Laurel said that no permanent seats would be allowed in the council to ensure fairness and a diverse range of voices. Monthly meetings will focus on strategizing for specific commodities representing the different subsectors, with progress reports submitted regularly to the DA for timely and informed decision-making.

The DA chief acknowledged its structural challenges, which he described as “an agency with many generals and colonels, but lacking sergeants and foot soldiers.”

Tiu Laurel said that while no additional budget or personnel are required, clearer mandates and better coordination are essential for effective program implementation.

The creation of the council supports the DA’s broader vision of forging meaningful partnerships and implementing actionable solutions for sustainable agricultural growth, he said.

“With your support, I am confident we can build a future where every Filipino has access to safe and nutritious food, where farmers and fishers can truly thrive, and where agricultural practices protect and preserve our environment for generations to come,” Tiu Laurel said.

<https://manilastandard.net/business/314526568/da-forming-new-council-to-boost-support-for-farmers.html>

THE MANILA TIMES:

A looming rice crisis? Blame it on heaven!

FINER POINTS

By Dr. Fermin D. Adriano, PhD

November 22, 2024

THERE is a standing joke among agricultural scientists in the country that the yearly performance of our agricultural sector depends on the Lord's mercy.

Farm productivity increases or decreases depending on whether the country has been bestowed with good weather. Heaven is usually blamed if productivity significantly dips. Interestingly, when agriculture performance is on the upswing, this is credited to the supposedly outstanding management capability of agriculture officials.

In this equation, we never seem to have heard about science. We know that science is capable of mitigating impacts if properly applied to any challenging situation. In fact, mankind has long engaged in scientific pursuit to counter nature's adverse impacts on human existence.

As expected, the woeful performance of the agricultural sector this year is being blamed on nature. It is being claimed that the successive destructive typhoons and the lingering problem of the African swine fever (ASF) are the major reasons for the plummeting performance.

The Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA) has reported that from January to September this year, agricultural output declined by 2.2 percent. Unfortunately, there seems to be no reprieve from this downward trend.

The PSA added that the value of production in agriculture and fisheries, at constant 2018 prices, declined by 3.7 percent in the third quarter compared to the same period last year. This is the deepest in four years, or when agriculture registered a 3.8-percent drop in the fourth quarter of 2020 — at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic and the strict lockdown.

Going by commodity breakdowns for the third quarter, the PSA noted that palay (unmilled rice) production fell by 12.3 percent, sugarcane by nearly 84 percent, mango by 11 percent, cassava by 3.9 percent, banana by 1.1 percent, pineapple by 0.4 percent, coconut by 0.1 percent, fisheries by 5.5 percent and livestock by 6.7 percent.

Two commodities registered positive growth rates: poultry, up by 5.8 percent and corn by 1.3 percent.

Palay constitutes around 22 percent of agricultural gross value added (GVA) and fisheries around 20 percent, while livestock, poultry and corn (which is an animal feed ingredient) make up almost 30 percent. These contribute around 70 percent of agricultural GVA. If there is a substantial decline in their output, expect negative growth for the agricultural sector.

What about rice, which is the most important commodity given that it is the staple food of Filipinos? How is our supply situation this year?

The PSA reported that palay harvest fell by 7.5 percent during the first three quarters of this year. Palay production in the first nine months of 2023 was 12.98 million metric tons (MT) compared to this year's 11.86 million MT. While the fourth quarter is considered peak harvest season, it was in October that Severe Tropical Storm Kristine hit the country and was quickly followed by five more. As such, it is expected that palay output will also shrink during the last quarter of 2024.

The average yearly rice consumption of Filipinos is around 16 million MT. With a palay harvest of a little over 20 million MT in 2023 and a conversion ratio of 65 percent (considered a very efficient milling capacity) to rice, the actual rice supply last year was about 13 million MT. We, therefore, have a deficit of around 3 million MT that we need to fill up via importation.

It looks grim this year as the palay harvest for the first nine months of the year is below 12 million MT. Optimistically assuming that we experience a bountiful harvest of around 7 million MT (from 7.08 million MT in 2023) during the last quarter, this translates to a total palay output of around 18.86 million MT for 2024. This means a 1.2 million MT deficit compared to last year.

Converted into rice, 18.86 million MT of palay is equivalent to around 12.26 million MT of rice at the 65-percent conversion ratio. Thus, we will be short by a staggering amount of around 3.74 million MT to meet average yearly rice consumption.

To prepare for the first two months of next year, when our production is minimal as we await the peak harvest of the dry season crop in March and April, we need to account for the necessary stock.

We anticipate an import requirement between 900,000 MT (good for about 20 days) and 1.2 million MT (sufficient for 30 days) before January. This will bring total estimated imports for 2024 to between 4.64 million MT and 4.94 million MT. We must also begin a new round of imports this January if we are not going to experience deficits during the first quarter of next year.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has revised the country's rice importation upwards next year to around 4.9 million MT from its previous forecast of 4.6 million MT. Note that the USDA figure approximates the gap we cited based on our crude estimate of the country's palay output situation.

With destructive typhoons being a common agroclimatic feature of the Philippines, we also need to look at how other countries are coping.

Take for example Vietnam, which is also visited by destructive typhoons, floods and salinity intrusion (during the dry season). It mitigated the adverse impacts of nature by adjusting crop planting calendars. This entails, for rice, planting early for the dry season crop to avoid salinity intrusions, having a second dry season crop to beef up stock, and a third crop planted away from flood-prone areas during September and October when floods and powerful typhoons hit the country.

Here, the adoption of a new planting calendar will require massive efforts by the Department of Agriculture, National Irrigation Administration and local government units in terms of educating our farmers and delivering assistance at a much earlier date.

The ASF problem, meanwhile, could have been addressed with more intensive implementation of biosecurity measures: i.e. by creating more testing laboratories capable of producing immediate results and the imposition of proper and stricter zoning of affected areas (including island quarantines). Obviously, the

much-ballyhooed Vietnamese-produced ASF vaccine did not work. Nobody has heard about it after the sale at an exorbitant price of the initial import volume.

My elders kept on reminding me of the adage "nasa Diyos ang awa; nasa tao ang gawa." (From the Lord comes mercy; from man effort emanates). I do not think that blaming heaven for the fate of our agricultural sector will reverse its misfortune in the hands of men who refuse to tap our agricultural scientists and apply science in solving our problems.

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<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/22/business/top-business/a-looming-rice-crisis-blame-it-on-heaven/2009144>

THE MANILA TIMES:

DA: Central bodies needed for policy reforms

By Janine Alexis Miguel

November 22, 2024

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) wants to form consultative councils that will aid in crafting policy reforms and addressing challenges faced by bureaus and attached agencies.

This will create a more inclusive and effective approach to agricultural issues and problems including climate change and resource degradation, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said at the annual membership meeting of the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. on Thursday.

The DA, he noted, has a lot of commanding officers who end up hampering the implementation of programs.

"By establishing central bodies, it will be simpler and a lot easier for the DA to implement their goals," Tiu Laurel said. "Only through strong partnerships and dedicated collaboration can we effectively tackle challenges and transform them into opportunities."

The agriculture chief suggested bringing together representatives from the DA, private sector, farmers and other key stakeholders to form the councils, which will collaborate on the development of policies and strategies to respond directly to each sector's major problems.

The initiative, Tiu Laurel said, is part of the DA's goal to create more effective and targeted solutions that reflect the needs and realities of those on the ground, actively involving farmers, fisherfolk, industry leaders and local government units in the policymaking process.

"Agriculture remains a cornerstone of the Philippine economy, but the sector faces significant challenges, such as climate change, resource degradation and socioeconomic pressures. Food security continues to be an urgent concern, both globally and locally," Tiu Laurel said.

Public and private partnerships will play an important role in making agriculture "bankable" and "cool" to the future generation of farmers. "[Their] expertise and resources are essential for achieving a sustainable, resilient agricultural sector, he added.

The proposed councils, Tiu Laurel said, are a crucial part of the department's four-year plan, which aims to modernize agriculture, increase production, improve accessibility to safe and affordable food, and ensure the country's agricultural practices are sustainable for future generations.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/22/business/top-business/da-central-bodies-needed-for-policy-reforms/2009191>

ABANTE TONITE:

Mga BAI exec sinuspinde sa imported kambing na positibo sa Q fever

November 21, 2024

Suspendido ang ilang opisyal ng Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) dahil sa pag-angkat ng 66 na kambing na nagpositibo sa Q fever.

Nanggaling sa Estados Unidos ang mga nasabing kambing na inangat noong Hunyo 20 ngayong taon.

Gayunpaman, hindi muna pinangalanan ang mga sinuspideng opisyal ng BAI.

Ayon kay Department of Agriculture (DA) Assistant Secretary Arnel De Mesa, hindi pa mailalabas ang pangalan ng mga suspendidong opisyal dahil kailangan pa nila ng clearance para rito.

Magkakaroon pa aniya ng karagdagang imbestigasyon tungkol sa importasyon ng mga kambing sa Amerika na nagpositibo sa Q fever matapos hilingin ng mga sinuspideng opisyal.

Ang query fever o Q fever ay isang uri ng sakit na sanhi ng bacteria na *Coxiella burnetii*.

Karaniwang apektado ng Q fever ang mga hayop na tulad ng kambing, tupa, at baka. (Migo Fajatin)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/11/21/mga-bai-exec-sinuspinde-sa-imported-kambing-na-positibo-sa-q-fever/>