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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **DA: Bad weather, ASF pull down agricultural output in 3Q 2024**

**BY [AARON RECUENCO](#)**

Nov 6, 2024 04:32 PM

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The Department of Agriculture (DA) has recorded a decline in agricultural output for the third quarter of this year, with a 3.7 percent decline recorded on value production.

DA Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. attributed the decline to the adverse effects of the weather disturbances and the lingering impact of African Swine Fever (ASF) on hog production. According to Laurel, the value of production declined by 3.7 percent year-on-year to P397.43 billion while the fisheries sub sector also suffered from the adverse weather, with its value of production contracting by 5.5 percent year-on-year to P55.48 billion in the third quarter.

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

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

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) revealed that palay production in the third quarter dropped by 12.3 percent year-on-year, which contributed to a 5.1 percent decline in overall crop output, totaling P211.62 billion. Meanwhile, hog production—a major contributor to the livestock subsector—declined by 8 percent.

Crops accounted for 53 percent of the total value of production, while livestock contributed around 16 percent. The value of livestock output fell by 6.7 percent to P61.67 billion,

But Laurel pointed to some bright spots in the third-quarter data, including a 1.3 percent increase in the value of corn production and a 5.8 percent rise in poultry output.

The value of poultry production, according to him, reached P68.66 billion during the quarter.

The DA chief also highlighted efforts by the Bureau of Animal Industry, in cooperation with the Food and Drug Administration, to develop an effective vaccine for African Swine Fever (ASF)—a disease that has devastated the hog industry since the first outbreak in 2019.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/6/ph-agri-output-down-in-3-q-2024>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Marcos distributes P100-M cash aid to 'Kristine' victims in CamSur, Albay

BY [ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS](#)

Nov 6, 2024 10:08 AM

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## AT A GLANCE

- Five thousand beneficiaries from 15 municipalities from Camarines Sur received P10,000 each through the Presidential Assistance for Farmers, Fisherfolk, and Families (PAFFF) program.
- Another 5,000 beneficiaries from three cities and 15 municipalities in Albay received P10,000 each.

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President Marcos has led the distribution of a total of P100 million worth of financial assistance to farmers, fisherfolk, and other families affected by the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine in Camarines Sur and Albay last month.



**AID DISTRIBUTION** — *President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. leads the distribution of cash assistance to those affected by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine in Pili, Camarines Sur on Nov. 6, 2024 (RTVM screenshot)*

Five thousand beneficiaries from 15 municipalities from Camarines Sur received P10,000 each through the Presidential Assistance for Farmers, Fisherfolk, and Families (PAFFF) program.

In his speech at the Fuerte CamSur Sports Complex in Pili, Camarines Sur on Wednesday, Nov. 6, the President hoped the assistance would help the beneficiaries in their recovery from the effects of the storm.

"Umaasa ako na sa tulong at suportang inihahatid namin sa inyo ngayon, kayo ay magkakaroon ng sapat na kakayahan para makabangon muli (I am hoping that with the assistance you will receive today, you will have enough to get back on your feet)," he said.

Of the 5,000 beneficiaries, 600 each are from the municipalities of Minalabac and Nabua; 500 each from Milaor and Bula; 450 from San Fernando; 400 each from Gainza and Baao; 350 from Canaman; 250 each from Libmanan and Camaligan; and 200 each from Calabanga and Pili.

Financial aid will also be extended to 100 residents each from the municipalities of Pamplona, Bombon, and Magarao.

Meanwhile, another 5,000 beneficiaries from three cities and 15 municipalities in Albay received P10,000 each.

The President distributed financial assistance to 1,000 beneficiaries in the municipalities of Libon; 900 in Oas; 400 in Guinobatan; 300 each in Camalig and Polangui; 200 each in Pio Duran and Malinao; and 150 each in Daraga and Tiwi.

He also extended aid to 100 beneficiaries each in Rapu-Rapu, Malilipot, and Jovellar; and 80 each in Sto. Domingo and Bacacay; 60 in Manito; 450 in the city of Tabaco; 350 in Legazpi; and 80 in Ligao City.

Aside from the financial aid from the Office of the President (OP), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) provided a Training Support Fund of P3,413,700 to 1,162 beneficiaries from Albay.

According to Marcos, the government is working hard to restore normalcy to the areas ravaged by Typhoon Kristine.

"Talagang nagpupursigi tayo na maibalik sa normal sa lalong madaling panahon ang mga nasirang tahanan, imprastruktura, at kabuhayan nitong bagyo (We are striving to restore the damaged properties, infrastructure, and livelihood to normal as soon as possible)," he said.

Ahead of President Marcos' arrival, Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel extended P247,442.25 in crop insurance payments to 10 farmers affected by Super Typhoon Julian.

The crop insurance payments for farmers affected by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine are currently being processed by the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp.

In a situation briefing at the Naga City Hall last week, President Marcos released a total of P130 million in financial assistance: P50 million to acting Albay Governor Glenda Ong-Bongao; P30 million to Naga City Mayor Nelson Legacion; and P50 million to Camarines Sur.

Before concluding his speech, Marcos reminded the residents that the Philippines is currently experiencing the effects of climate change. He assured the government is actively addressing the situation.

The President has ordered all relevant government agencies to develop a comprehensive flood mitigation project, including efforts to revisit the Bicol River Basin Development Program.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/6/p50m-aid-kristine-victims-camsur>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Agricultural, fisheries output further contract in Q3

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

November 7, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The country could miss its target growth rate for the agriculture and fisheries output this year after a prolonged dry spell and devastating typhoons dragged down local production in the third quarter to its steepest decline in 15 months.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said the value of farm and fisheries output (at constant 2018 prices) from July to September declined by 3.7 percent to P397.43 billion due to lower production of crops, livestock and fisheries.

It was the second straight quarter that agriculture and fisheries output declined. The recorded drop in value was also steeper than the 0.2-percent dip in the third quarter last year, according to the PSA.

The value of crop production, which accounts for half of the overall agriculture output, declined on an annual basis by 5.1 percent. The crops sector has contracted for three straight quarters already.

Livestock output fell by 6.7 percent year-on-year while fisheries production contracted by 5.5 percent.

Only the poultry sector posted an increment in the third quarter, growing by 5.8 percent, according to the PSA. The poultry sector has grown for 14 straight quarters to date, the PSA added.

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

The value of the country’s agriculture and fisheries output from January to September dipped by two percent on an annual basis following the third quarter performance. With

this, the DA is lukewarm of meeting its full-year growth target for agriculture and fisheries of one percent to two percent.

“It would be difficult [to hit the target] especially with the performance this fourth quarter where we faced a lot of natural calamities which could pull down or weigh down the overall performance of agriculture. The impact of El Niño and La Niña has been huge already,” DA spokesman Arnel de Mesa said yesterday.

Tiu Laurel said the DA is undertaking changes to the rice cropping calendar and building infrastructure such as water impounding dams to mitigate the impact of climate change on the industry.

Palay production, which accounted for 35 percent of the total crop output, fell by 12.3 percent on an annual basis, according to the PSA.

The agriculture chief also emphasized that the DA and the Food and Drug Administration are developing an effective vaccine against African swine fever, which has been devastating the country’s hog industry since 2019.

The value of the livestock sector fell by 6.7 percent in the third quarter, contracting for the third straight quarter, after hogs output declined by eight percent.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/11/07/2398139/agricultural-fisheries-output-further-contract-q3>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# House panel probe on agricultural smuggling set November 12

[Delon Porcalla](#) - The Philippine Star

November 7, 2024 | 12:00am



The first hearing of the mega committee, to be led by the ways and means panel of Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, will be on Nov. 12 at 9 a.m. at the People's Center Building inside the Batasang Pambansa complex in Quezon City.

Michael Varcas, file

MANILA, Philippines — The quinta committee of the House of Representatives that aims to dismantle the decades-long cartels in the country's agriculture industry will start its investigation on Nov. 12.

The first hearing of the mega committee, to be led by the ways and means panel of Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, will be on Nov. 12 at 9 a.m. at the People's Center Building inside the Batasang Pambansa complex in Quezon City.

The hearing's main agenda of the quinta comm hearing is the deliberation of House Resolution 254 aimed at addressing rampant smuggling in the country's agricultural sector that perennially results in the spiraling cost of basic commodities and stoking inflation, to the detriment of consumers.



Meanwhile, rice imports this year could hit a record level of 4.2 million metric tons as the country continues to grapple to meet its growing demand and ensuring stable retail prices for the staple, an agriculture official said.

Leocadio Sebastian, a former agriculture undersecretary and a member of Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.'s technical advisory group, said the country has to end the year with a good level of rice stocks to ensure that prices would not spike at the start of next year.

He noted that the country may probably import at least another 400,000 MT in the last two months of the year to ensure a comfortable level of rice stocks following domestic harvest losses due to weather disturbances.

To bring affordable rice to Filipinos, President Marcos on Tuesday ordered the expansion of the government's Rice-for-All and P29 per kilo rice programs, as well as its Kadiwa outlets nationwide.

Marcos directed the Department of Agriculture and Department of Budget and Management to increase the Kadiwa centers from the current 21 to 300 by mid-2025.

Rice remains to be the main driver of food inflation in October, with its inflation rate surging 9.6 percent in October from 5.7 percent in September.

Meanwhile, farmers' group Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura yesterday bewailed the depressed farmgate price of palay as it dropped to as low as P15 per kilo even after the implementation of Executive Order 62 that lowered the tariff for imported rice. – **Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas, Helen Flores, Bella Cariaso**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/07/2398274/house-panel-probe-agricultural-smuggling-set-november-12>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Cagayan is bird flu-free

**Bella Cariaso** - The Philippine Star

November 7, 2024 | 12:00am



DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. issued Memorandum Circular 46, certifying Cagayan to be free from avian flu.

AFP

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) has declared Cagayan free from bird flu after the province succeeded in addressing the outbreak of avian influenza.

DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. issued Memorandum Circular 46, certifying Cagayan to be free from avian flu.

Cagayan had one confirmed case of the highly pathogenic avian Influenza Subtype H5N1, which was recorded in Solana town in January last year.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/11/07/2398174/cagayan-bird-flu-free>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Kristine rescue teams undergo stress debriefing

[Evelyn Macairan](#), [Sheila Crisostomo](#) - The Philippine Star

November 7, 2024 | 12:00am



Residents walk on a flooded portion of the baywalk in Lingayen, Pangasinan yesterday following a storm surge generated by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine.

Cesar Ramirez

MANILA, Philippines — Members of the Philippine Coast Guard-District Southern Tagalog (PCG-DST) who joined the search and rescue operations for victims of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine in Bicol have undergone stress debriefing.

“A debriefing session is conducted after a crisis or deployment in times of disasters to analyze and discuss the experiences, lessons and ways to improve future operations,” the PCG-DST said.

It said the activity intends to teach search and rescue personnel how to handle work-related stress.

Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture (DA) blamed the typhoons and African swine fever for the decline in farm, fishery and swine production.

The DA said it has released P24.4 milion to indemnify farmers displaced by Kristine in Bicol.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said the combined effects of El Niño and La Niña pulled down palay production.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said it distributed P50 million in aid to farmers and fisherfolk in typhoon-affected areas in Camarines Sur.

DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian said the beneficiaries are residents of 15 municipalities battered by Kristine.

Bicol, Calabarzon and other regions in Luzon were listed in the 2024 National Adaptation Plan (NAP) among the areas severely affected by flooding due to climate change.

Based on the NAP, Luzon regions are projected to experience the highest flood level caused by rainfall and overall population impact. - **Bella Cariaso**

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/11/07/2398192/kristine-rescue-teams-undergo-stress-debriefing>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Marcos: Quick response funds depleted as cyclones hit Philippines

[Jean Mangaluz](#) - Philstar.com

November 6, 2024 | 7:59pm



President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. gives a speech to farmers, fisherfolk and families affected by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine on November 6, 2024.

Presidential Communications Office

ADVERTISEMENT

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday said the government has spent all of its quick response funds (QRF) following the string of cyclones that have hit the Philippines.

In October, Severe Tropical Storm Kristine tore through Luzon, dumping a record amount of rain on the island. Some areas experienced two months' worth of rains in a matter of days. Shortly after Kristine, Super Typhoon Leon and Typhoon Marce followed.

Marcos said the Department of Budget and Management has been told to redirect the proper funding for this.

“Our QRF, in truth, has been exhausted because of the numerous cyclones. So, we set aside funds once more to replenish the QRF for local governments and to address your needs,” Marcos said in Filipino a speech to victims of Kristine in Albay.

Marcos did not specify where the funds will come from. Reporters have sought further clarification from the Presidential Communications Office, and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

In a separate statement, the DBM said that the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund can be used to replenish the QRF.

However, this fund is limited, said the DBM.

"The DBM is looking to tap other sources of funds to support the continued relief and rehabilitation of vulnerable areas," the agency said.

The QRFs can also be replenished from the Contingent Fund, as well as available funds from the regular budgets of other agencies.

The 2024 General Appropriations Act allotted P7,925,000,000 for QRFs.

However, the damage from Kristine and Leon easily trumped this amount. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said that damage to infrastructure is estimated at P8,470,632,508.53 while damage to agriculture is at P6,368,052,277.8.

## **Preparing for 'Marce'**

The president reported that all government agencies are on high alert as Marce continues to whip up rain and winds in the northern part of the Philippine area of responsibility.

Marce is forecast to make landfall in the Babuyan Islands or the northern parts of the mainland Cagayan, Ilocos Norte, and Apayao by Thursday, November 7.

Marcos has ordered streamlined communications, as well as the 24-hour monitoring of all rivers, lakes and coasts. He left the management of dams to local experts and leaders.

Rescue equipment and vehicles must already be in place, while relief goods should also be prepared.

The Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Transportation have also been tasked with road clearing.

“Gamitin nyo hindi lang ang inyong mga makinarya, mga truck, kasama rin dapat ang mga pribadong kumpanya na kalahok sa ating Build Better More infrastructure programs,” Marcos said.

(Use the machineries, and the private companies who are in the Build Better More infrastructure programs.)

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/06/2398111/marcos-quick-response-funds-depleted-cyclones-hit-philippines>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

## **2,644 farmers in Bicol receive P24.4M insurance payments**

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 10:19 PM November 06, 2024

The Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC) provided an initial P24.4 million in insurance payments to more than 2,600 farmers in Bicol region as they are still reeling from the aftermath of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami).

Indemnity checks were distributed to 2,644 farmers in Albay, Catanduanes, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Masbate and Sorsogon during President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s visit Camarines Sur on Wednesday.

PCIC president Jovy Bernabe said the government's insurance company continues to process insurance claims of farmers affected by the typhoon.

The PCIC had estimated that indemnification payments to affected farmers would amount to at least P666.5 million.

Citing its rapid assessment, it said 86,066 farmers across 10 regions were hit by the weather disturbance, primarily from Central Luzon, Bicol and Mimaropa regions.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. had directed the PCIC to fast-track the processing of insurance claims to help insured farmers quickly recover from the adverse impact of Kristine.

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



Aside from providing indemnification, the Department of Agriculture (DA) likewise provided other assistance to farmers, including farm inputs such as seeds and fertilizers.

So far, Kristine damaged P6.20 billion worth of farm produce and uprooted the livelihood of 143,065 farmers and fishers in 12 regions, based on the DA's recent bulletin.

Affected regions were Cordillera, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Soccsksargen and Caraga.

The DA said the storm ravaged 283,528 metric tons of farm produce in 117,509 hectares of agricultural areas.

Rice suffered the worst damage, with losses totaling P4.46 billion. High-value crops and fisheries came next with P865.09 million and P665.01 million, respectively.

The typhoon did not spare agricultural infrastructure, ruining P50.46 million in farm structures and P28 million in irrigation facilities.

Damage was likewise recorded in corn (P74.05 million), cassava (P40.34 million), livestock and poultry (P13.89 million), machineries and equipment (P300,000).

Agriculture assistant secretary Arnel de Mesa said this week that the severe impact of recent typhoons and the El Niño phenomenon on the farm sector is expected to slash the country's palay output this year.

“We can really expect the output to decline compared to last year because of the extent of damage from El Niño and the series of typhoons before [Severe Tropical Storm] Kristine,” said de Mesa, also the DA's spokesperson.

“We foresee substantial damage as [Severe Tropical Storm] Kristine adversely hit our major rice-producing regions and areas,” he added.

The DA had revised its projection on its palay production for 2024 downward to 19.41 million metric tons as a result of the El Niño-induced dry spell and successive typhoons that hit the farm sector.

<https://business.inquirer.net/488702/2644-farmers-in-bicol-receive-p24-4m-insurance-payments>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Kristine-hit Bicol farmers get P24.4 million in crop insurance payments

By: [Jason Sigales](#) - Reporter / [@jasonsigaesINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 01:45 PM November 06, 2024



Search and rescue operations in Zone 6, Libon, Albay on October 23, 2024 during the height of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine. (File photo from the official Facebook page of Coast Guard District Bicol)

MANILA, Philippines — Thousands of Bicol farmers affected by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (International name: Trami) received an initial amount of P24.4 million in crop insurance payments, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA) on Wednesday.

The Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) issued indemnification checks to 2,644 farmers in Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Masbate and Sorsogon.

PCIC President Jovy Bernabe said the indemnities were meant to “help farmers recover from setbacks and continue to contribute to the country’s food security and economic growth.”

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. distributed the checks during President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s visit to [calamity victims](#) in Camarines Sur on Wednesday. Tiu Laurel called on the PCIC to expedite the release of the crop insurance payments.

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

Bernabe said the total crop insurance payments can run up to at least P666.5 million, based on the agency’s initial assessment.

Additionally, the DA is providing P541.02 million in inputs like seeds and fertilizers to aid recovery, its Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Operations Center said on Monday.

Based on the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council’s situational report on Tuesday, the combined effects of Kristine and Super Typhoon Leon (International name: Kong-rey) brought P4.8 billion worth of damage to the agricultural sector.

Of this tally, Bicol Region’s farmers and fishers suffered losses worth about P2.9 billion.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2001806/kristine-hit-bicol-farmers-get-p24-4-million-in-crop-insurance-payments>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Gov't expects record rice imports this year

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:44 AM November 07, 2024

MANILA, Philippines — Rice imports may hit a new record this year amid expectations the country would need to increase its stockpile for lean months following substantial losses from typhoons.

Even farmers conceded the production losses caused by the typhoons with a group asking the government for farm subsidies to boost production, if not to recover the losses.

“Other farmers are already able to [harvest more than the average rice yield] as long as they have enough capital, so it is not impossible,” said Cathy Estavillo of the Amihan National Federation of Peasant Women.

The group said the current yield of 4.17 metric tons (MT) of rice per hectare could be increased to 5 MT per hectare and raise the country’s average rice yield per hectare by 20 percent.

Estavillo pointed out that the provinces of Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Pampanga and Tarlac in Central Luzon already produce rice yields higher than the country’s average, except for the bad weather.

However, it will take months, if not years, to hike farm output and the Department of Agriculture (DA) has conceded that rice production was already expected to fall short of the target even before the series of typhoons that hit the country recently.

Former Agriculture Undersecretary Leocadio Sebastian said on Wednesday that even before Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami) last month, palay

(unmilled rice) production already slumped by 900,000 MT in the first three quarters of 2024.

Sebastian explained that the country needs to maintain “a good ending [stock balance]” to ensure sufficient supply ahead of the lean months when local output has never managed to meet increased demand.

The volume of rice imports entering the country is estimated at 4.2 million MT by year-end, Sebastian said, citing DA projections.

“That means in November and December, we will probably be expecting another 400,000 MT minimum,” Sebastian told attendees of the World Rice Conference held in Pasay City.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2002017/govt-expects-record-rice-imports-this-year>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Marcos to DA, DBM: Bring cheap rice, Kadiwa centers closer to the people

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:14 AM November 06, 2024



(INQUIRER FILE PHOTO)

MANILA, Philippines — To bring affordable rice closer to the public, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr. ordered expanding the [P29 Rice-for-All program](#) and establishing additional Kadiwa centers nationwide.

Marcos issued the order in a meeting with officials from the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the National Irrigation Administration at Malacañang on Tuesday.

“The DA and DBM [Department of Budget and Management] have been directed to expand the P29 Rice-for-All program and increase our Kadiwa ng Pangulo centers from 21 to 300 by mid-2025. This will bring affordable rice within reach for more communities across the country,” Marcos said in a Facebook post.

Kadiwa is a market linkage facilitation program that brings agricultural products and other basic commodities accessible and affordable to vulnerable sectors.

The expanded Kadiwa sites will sell Rice-For-All at P43 per kilogram or less, with selected stores offering P29 rice based on stock availability.

In the same post, the President also urged local government units to [purchase palay \(unhusked rice\) from local farmers](#) to boost their profit and ensure the country's sufficient supply of rice.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2001711/fwd-marcos-on-kadiwa-centers>



**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Agri yield seen to shrink in 2024

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 02:22 AM November 07, 2024

Harsh weather and the recurrence of African swine fever (ASF) severely battered the Philippine agriculture sector as production declined by 3.7 percent in the third quarter of this year.

In a report, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said the sector yielded just P397.43 billion worth of goods from P412.7 billion in the same period the year prior. Except for poultry, all commodity groups registered decreases.

This marked the second consecutive contraction in the farm sector's performance in 2024 following a meager 0.2-percent increase in the first quarter of this year.

The Department of Agriculture attributed the farm sector's lukewarm performance to adverse weather conditions and poor hog production to the lingering impact of ASF.

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

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa noted it may now be difficult to attain production targets this year.

Roy Kempis, director of Center for Business Innovation at Angeles University Foundation, said farm output was expected to decline for the rest of 2024 as it would take months for the sector to fully recover from the onslaught of typhoons and other natural calamities.

The PSA data showed that value of crop output stood at P211.62 billion, a decrease of 5.1 percent. It accounted for 53.2 percent of overall production.

Palay contributed the most to the contraction, as it slid by 12.3 percent, while corn inched up by 1.3 percent.

Kempis said an immediate recovery for crops was “not possible.”

“The expected trend of agriculture output for the rest of 2024 is: a decline. With typhoon Leon and the incoming typhoon Marce, as well as other possible typhoons for the rest of the year happening, agricultural output will take a few months to recover,” he said in a Viber message.

Federation of Free Farmers national manager Raul Montemayor agreed, saying the entry of storms coincided with the peak harvest season.

He said any carryover stocks for 2025 “will be lower than normal” even though imports can offset losses.

Livestock production, meanwhile, dipped by 6.7 percent to P61.67 billion, with hog yield dropping by 8 percent.

A downward trend was also projected to persist until the first quarter of 2025 with ASF affecting all major swine-producing regions.

<https://business.inquirer.net/488672/agri-yield-seen-to-shrink-in-2024>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# President Marcos gives cash aid to Bicol famers, fisherfolk affected by Kristine

By: [Michael B. Jaucian](#) - Correspondent / [@mbjaucianINQ](#)

[Inquirer Southern Luzon](#) / 12:00 PM November 06, 2024



## INQUIRER FILES

PILI, CAMARINES SUR — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday personally handed cash assistance to members of the agriculture sector affected by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami) at the Ka Fuerte Complex.

A total of 10,000 farmers and fisherfolk from Camarines Sur and Albay provinces each received P10,000 in aid.

“I am personally here to extend assistance to those who were heavily impacted by Kristine. This aid comes directly from the Office of the President. I hope this support will help you gain the strength to rebuild,” said President Marcos.

The president also announced a P50-million fund through the Department of Social Welfare and Development to meet the needs of affected communities.

“We are committed to restoring normal conditions as soon as possible, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure, roads, and livelihoods,” he emphasized.

After the distribution in Camarines Sur, President Marcos proceeded to the Albay Astrodome to give cash assistance to other fishers and farmers there.

Kristine hit Bicol on Oct. 22 to 23, causing widespread floods and landslides, leaving more than 20 people dead.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2001745/president-marcos-gives-cash-aid-to-bicol-farmers-fisherfolk-affected-by-kristine>

**BUSINESS WORLD:**

# Agricultural output slumps in Q3

November 7, 2024 | 12:34 am



Wet palay is being dried on the street in Bula, Camarines Sur, Oct. 26, 2024. — PHILIPPINE STAR/NOEL B. PABALATE

By **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**, *Reporter*

THE PHILIPPINES' agricultural production plunged by 3.7% in the third quarter, the steepest decline in nearly four years, the statistics authority said on Wednesday.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed the value of production in agriculture and fisheries at constant 2018 prices fell by 3.7% to P397.43 billion in the July-to-September period. This was worse than the 0.2% decline in the same period a year ago.

This was also the biggest drop in farm output since the 3.8% contraction in the fourth quarter of 2020.

In the first nine months, agricultural output shrank by 2.2%, a reversal of the 0.2% growth a year prior.

“This was attributed to the reductions in the values of crops, livestock and fisheries production,” the PSA said.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) in a statement said the lower farm production was due to adverse weather and the lingering impact of African Swine Fever (ASF).

Broken down, crops production slid by 5.1% in the quarter ending-September, worsening from the 0.2% drop a year earlier. Crops accounted for more than half or 53.2% of the total farm output.

In the January-September period, the value of production in crops slid by 4.6%, reversing the 0.9% increase a year earlier.

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

Palay (unmilled rice) production primarily contributed to this decline, plunging by 12.3% in the third quarter.

PSA data showed sugarcane plummeted by 83.8% during the July-to-September period. Lower output was also seen in mango (-11.2%), *ampalaya* (-5.6%), rubber (-4.6%), cassava (-3.9%), banana (-1.1%), pineapple (-0.4%), and coconut (-0.1%).

“On the other hand, the value of corn production was 1.3% higher than last year’s same quarter level,” it added.

Meanwhile, livestock production, which accounted for 15.5% of the total, fell by 6.7% in the third quarter. This was a reversal of the 2.5% expansion a year ago.

The value of livestock output dropped by 3.5% in the first nine months from the 2.4% growth in the previous year.

This as hog production slumped by 8% in the third quarter, reversing the 3.3% expansion a year ago.

“There were also more livestock hit by the ASF this third quarter compared to the quarter a year ago,” Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura Executive Director Jayson H. Cainglet said in mixed English and Filipino.

The latest bulletin from the Bureau of Animal Industry showed there are active ASF cases in 108 municipalities across 25 provinces as of Oct. 18.

There was also a drop in the value of production for goat (-4.1%) and carabao (0.5%). On the other hand, higher production was seen for dairy (6%) and cattle (0.9%).

Meanwhile, fisheries production declined by 5.5% in the third quarter, although improving from the 6.1% contraction in the same period in 2023.

Fisheries accounted for 14% of the agriculture sector’s total production in the quarter.

In the nine-month period, the value of fisheries output dipped by 0.9%, improving from the 7% contraction a year ago.

Double-digit declines were recorded for grouper or *lapu-lapu* (-31.9%), big-eyed scad or *matangbaka* (-23%), fimbriated sardines or *tunsoy* (-18.9%), Indian mackerel or *alumahan* (-18.8%); yellowfin tuna

or *tambakol* (-18.6%), round scad or *galunggong* (-17.2%), tiger prawn or *sugpo* (-16.7%), mudcrab or *alimango* (-14.8%), slipmouth or *sapsap* (-14.7%); and squid or *pusit* (-11.9%).

Production likewise declined for frigate tuna or *tulingan* (-7.5%), milkfish or *bangus* (-6.9%), Bali Sardinella or *tamban* (-6.7%), cavalla or *talakitok* (-4.6%), tilapia (-4.2%), and seaweed (-1.5%).

“The fisheries subsector also suffered from the adverse weather,” the Agriculture department said.

Mr. Cainglet said there were more typhoons this year compared to last year.

A number of storms and typhoons struck the country in the third quarter, resulting in significant agricultural damage.

These include the combined effects of southwest monsoon and Typhoon Carina (P4.73 billion), Severe Tropical Storm Enteng (P3.77 billion), and the combined effects of the enhanced southwest monsoon and tropical cyclones Ferdie, Gener, and Helen (P1.09 billion), according to DA estimates.

## **LONE**

## **BRIGHT**

## **SPOT**

Meanwhile, poultry was the only sector to post gains in the third quarter. Poultry production grew by 5.8%, faster than the 2.9% in the same period a year ago.

Poultry output expanded by 6.8% in the January-September period from 2.5% a year earlier. It accounted for 17.3% of the total value of agricultural production.

Growth was seen for chicken eggs (6.6%) and chicken (6%), while declines were seen in duck eggs (-5.7%) and duck (-3.2%).

Federation of Free Farmers National Manager Raul Q. Montemayor said that the contraction in overall farm output was also due to the sector’s vulnerability to shocks.

“While we can point to weather disturbances and animal diseases for the decline in output, it also reflects the low level of resiliency and vulnerability of the sector to external forces,” he said.

“The output decline was due mainly to a reduction in the volume, which was not able to offset a general upswing in prices,” he added.

Mr. Cainglet said that farmgate prices of palay and hog have continued to be low due to over importation and reduced tariffs. “Even the farmgate price of chicken, despite the growth, is below cost of production. The farmgate price of chicken is at P90 per kilo,” he added.

The executive order slashing tariffs on rice imports to 15% until 2028 took effect in July.

Mr. Tiu Laurel said the government is working on measures to support the sector, such as continuing to develop a vaccine for ASF.

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

The DA is targeting 1-2% agricultural growth this year.

The agriculture sector typically accounts for about a tenth of the country’s gross domestic product (GDP). It also provides about a quarter of all jobs.

The PSA is scheduled to release third-quarter GDP data today (Nov. 7).

<https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2024/11/07/633300/agricultural-output-slumps-in-q3-2/>



**BUSINESS WORLD:**

# PHL rice imports needed to bridge Jan.-Feb. lean period — ex-official

November 6, 2024 | 8:46 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/KRIZ JOHN ROSALES

RICE IMPORTS, expected at around 4.2 million metric tons (MMT) this year, are intended to build up reserves which will bridge the lean period at the start of 2025, a former Department of Agriculture (DA) official said.

At the World Rice Conference Summit on Wednesday, former Undersecretary Leocadio S. Sebastian said: “The Philippines imported 3.8 million MT as of Oct. 31; that is the volume that has already arrived, and the DA projects that it will probably reach 4.2 million MT by the end of the year.”

“I think 400,000 MT... would be the minimum. It could be more, but it will depend again on how our traders react to the global market,” he added.

He said palay (unmilled rice) production is well behind the year-earlier pace because of crop damage.

“That is not including the effect of Kristine. Total production this year will be much lower than the 20 million produced last year,” he said.

He said the rice inventory ending balance at the close of 2024 needs to be sufficient to get through the lean periods, the next of which starts in January.

“Lean months are when the production is less than demand. So we are consuming more rice than what we are producing. These periods are July to Sept. 15 as well as January-February,” he said.

“Because of the projected shortfall this year, we may have to bring in more supply, either in December or in January, from my point of view,” he said.

“Next year, I think we really should continue to be a good market for exporters in Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, India, and Pakistan,” he added.

The DA has estimated palay production to drop to a four-year low of 19.41 MMT in 2024, dampened by tropical cyclone activity.

The US Department of Agriculture projects Philippine rice imports to hit 4.7 MMT this year. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/11/06/633314/phl-rice-imports-needed-to-bridge-jan-feb-lean-period-ex-official/>

## **BUSINESS WORLD:**

# **National rice inventory up 5.4% as of Oct. 1**

November 6, 2024 | 8:44 pm



THE national rice inventory rose 5.4% year on year to 2.15 million metric tons (MMT), the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported, citing preliminary data as of Oct. 1.

The national inventory consisted of 52.6% held by commercial traders, 39.4% by households, and 8% by the National Food Authority (NFA), the PSA said in a report.

Rice held by the NFA increased 290.2% to 172,840 MT, while commercial rice stocks rose 4.7% to 1.08 MMT.

On the other hand, rice held by households amounted to 849,330 MT for the period, down 7.5% from a year earlier. Month on month, their holdings rose 29.8%.

The PSA also said the corn inventory declined 25.3% year on year to 728,230 MT during the period.

Corn held by commercial establishments was 585,390 MT, down 31.1%, while household corn was around 142,840 MT, up 13.7%.

At the World Rice Conference Summit on Wednesday, Agriculture Undersecretary Deogracias Victor B. Savellano, who delivered a speech on behalf of Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr., described the Philippine rice supply as secure.

“Working closely with President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., we are accelerating harvest and procurement through the NFA, which plays a crucial role in supporting communities affected by severe tropical storm Kristine,” Mr. Savellano said.

“Region 5 and Calabarzon have felt this impact and the NFA’s efforts are critical in these areas,” he added.

He said that the challenges brought about by natural events like El Niño and La Niña are testing the resilience of farmers.

“El Niño has intensified droughts and reduced water availability, while La Niña has led to heavy rains and flooding in some areas. Together, these events underscore the need for more adaptive measures in our rice production,” he said.

To address this, he said that DA is working with the International Rice Research Institute for potential scaling up of new technologies focused on nutritious rice, high-productivity rice, climate-resilient rice, and low-carbon rice.

“These innovations have the power to increase farmers’ yields, improve their incomes, and support the nation’s food and nutrition security,” he added.

At present, the Philippines can meet 79% of its rice demand with domestically grown rice, which the government hopes to increase to 95% by 2028. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/11/06/633313/national-rice-inventory-up-5-4-as-of-oct-1/>

**REMATE:**

# Farm, fisheries production ng Pinas bumaba ng 3.7% sa Q3 2024

November 6, 2024 18:11



MANILA, Philippines- Bumaba ang farm at fisheries production value ng bansa ng 3.7% year-on-year sa P397.43 bilyon para sa ikatlong quarter, ayon sa Department of Agriculture (DA) nitong Miyerkules.

Sinabi ng DA na ito ay dulot ng masamang panahon at epekto African Swine Fever sa hog production.

Batay sa Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) data, sinabi ng DA na ang halaga ng palay production ay bumaba sa ikatlong quarter ng 12.3% year-on-year, nagresulta sa 5.1% pagbaba sa overall crop output, na nagkakahalaga ng P211.62 bilyon.

Pumalo naman ang crops sa 53% ng total value of production, habang ang livestock ay nasa 16%. Bumaba ang halaga ng livestock output ng 6.7% sa P61.67 bilyon.

Samantala, bumaba ang hog production ng 8%.

Samantala, bumaba ang production value ng fisheries subsector ng 5.5% year-on-year sa P55.48 bilyon sa ikatlong quarter.

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

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

Subalit, sinabi ni Tiu Laurel na tumaas sa ilang salik tulad ng 1.3% dagdag sa halaga ng corn production at 5.8 % pagtaas sa poultry output value.

Umabot ang value ng poultry production sa P68.66 bilyon sa nasabing quarter. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/farm-fisheries-production-ng-pinas-bumaba-ng-3-7-sa-q3-2024/>



**REMATE:**

# PCIC nagbigay ng P24.4M indemnity checks sa Kristine-hit farmers sa Bicol

November 6, 2024 17:44



MANILA, Philippines- Nagbigay ang Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC), isang government insurance company sa ilalim ng Department of Agriculture, nitong Miyerkules ng inisyal na P24.4 milyong halaga ng insurance payments sa libo-libong magsasakang Bicolano na apektado ng pananalasa ni Severe Tropical Storm Kristine.

Ipinamahagi ang indemnity checks ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. sa mga apektadong magsasaka sa pagbisita ni Pangulong Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. sa Bicol Region, kung saan pinangunahan din ng huli ang pagbibigay ng tulong sa mga apektadong pamilya.

Inatasan ni Tiu Laurel ang PCIC na agad na ipalabas ang indemnification payments upang tulungan ang mga magsasaka na agad na makabangon sa kalamidad.

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

Ayon kay PCIC President JB Jovy Bernabe, ang distribusyon ng indemnity checks ay alinsunod sa “government’s commitment to support the farmers in the countryside by providing insurance

protection and financial assistance through indemnities to help farmers recover from setbacks and continue to contribute to the country's food security and economic growth.”

Nakapagbigay ang PCIC ng indemnification checks sa 2,644 magsasaka sa mga lalawigan ng Albay, Catanduanes, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Masbate at Sorsogon.

Samantala, tiniyak ni Bernabe na ipagpapatuloy ng PCIC ang pagproseso sa insurance claims ng mga apektadong magsasaka. Batay sa initial assessment ng ahensya, papalo ang indemnification payments sa hindi bababa sa P666.5 milyon. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/pcic-nagbigay-ng-p24-4m-indemnity-checks-sa-kristine-hit-farmers-sa-bicol/>



**MANILA STANDARD:**

# **PBBM orders DA, agencies to scale up rice programs**



PNA photo

By Charles Dantes

November 6, 2024, 11:10 pm

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ordered the Department of Agriculture (DA) and other government agencies to scale up affordable rice initiatives, including the P29 per kilo rice and Rice-for-All (RFA) programs.

In a meeting at Malacañang with officials from the DA, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), President Marcos emphasized the need to stabilize rice prices, particularly through the P29 and RFA programs, which are designed to offer low-cost rice to Filipinos.

He urged the DA to work closely with the Department of Finance (DOF) and the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) to address factors contributing to rising food prices, including high farm input costs and climate-related challenges affecting crop yields.

Since its launch, the P29 Program has provided rice to over 140,000 households across the Philippines, distributing more than 700,000 kilograms through Kadiwa centers.

The initiative has generated an estimated P20.42 million in sales for farmers and fisherfolk cooperatives participating in the program.

To sustain and expand these programs, the President approved a P5 billion budget allocation to support infrastructure improvements, including warehouse repairs and expanded distribution networks.

The National Food Authority (NFA) has also been instrumental in supporting these programs, procuring over 6.47 million bags of palay from January to October 2024, marking a 72.65% completion rate toward its annual target of nearly 9 million bags.

The agency's procurement, boosted by the Price Range Scheme for Palay Procurement (PRICERS), is projected to help achieve the required buffer stocks by the year's end.

The President also directed DA to expand Kadiwa locations from 21 to 300 by mid-2025, focusing on ensuring access to affordable rice in underserved communities.

Currently, 447 Kadiwa pop-up and mobile stores operate nationwide, offering RFA rice at P43 per kilogram, and selected sites offering P29 rice depending on stock availability.

The President called on local government units (LGUs) to participate by implementing palay-buying schemes that will secure rice inventories for expanded Kadiwa and rice programs.

<https://manilastandard.net/news/314520158/pbbm-orders-da-agencies-to-scale-up-rice-programs.html>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# Farm output drop worsens

By Janine Alexis Miguel

November 7, 2024

FARM output fell in the third quarter, with bad weather and swine fever outbreaks having led to contractions in the crops, livestock and fisheries sectors.

The value of agricultural and fisheries production, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported on Wednesday, fell to P397.4 billion in July-September from the previous quarter's P414.4 billion and the year-earlier P412.7 billion.

The 3.7-percent drop worsened from the second quarter's -3.2 percent and -0.2 percent recorded a year ago.

The result will have weighed on economic growth for the period, data for which will be released by the PSA today.

Economists polled by The Manila Times expect gross domestic product growth to have slowed to 5.7 percent from 6.4 percent in the second quarter, below the government's 6.0- to 7.0-percent target for 2024, mainly due to subdued public and private spending.

Year to date, farm output was valued at P1.24 trillion, down 2.2 percent slightly from the P1.27 trillion in January-September 2023.

The Department of Agriculture cited adverse weather and the outbreak of African swine fever (ASF) as major contributors to the contraction in output.

Crops, which accounted for the bulk, or 53.2 percent, of total production, fell by 5.1 percent to P211.6 billion. The decline improved from the second quarter's -8.6 percent, when the sector's output hit P220 billion.

Palay (unmilled rice), the country's biggest crop, saw output fall by 13.3 percent to P72.97 billion. Bananas, in second at P38.93 billion, contracted by 1.1 percent.

**Sugarcane accounted for the biggest drop of 83.8 percent at P392 million.**

**Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the combined effects of El Niño and La Niña had weighed on palay production, which had an 18.4-percent share of total output during the quarter.**

"We're implementing changes to the rice cropping calendar and building infrastructure like water impounding dams to mitigate the impact of climate change on the farming sector," he said.

Livestock, with a 15.5-percent or P61.6-billion share of total output, recorded a 6.7-percent dip for the latest quarter as hog, goat and carabao production fell by 8.0 percent, 4.1 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively.

These offset the 6.0-percent and 0.9-percent gains seen for dairy and cattle.

Poultry was the only commodity group that posted an increase in the value of production, growing by 5.8 percent. It accounted for 17.3 percent of total output at P68.6 billion.

Production gains were recorded for chicken eggs (6.6 percent) and chicken (6.0 percent), but duck and duck egg output fell by 3.2 percent and 5.7 percent, respectively.

The value of fisheries output, lastly, dropped by 5.5 percent to P55.48 billion and accounted for 14.0 percent of overall farm production. Losses were recorded for the majority of the monitored species, led by grouper (lapu-lapu) which saw the biggest drop of 31.9 percent.

Of the five species that posted gains, bigeye tuna grew the most by 40.1 percent.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/07/business/top-business/farm-output-drop-worsens/1998830>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# **PH rice imports surpass 2023 level**

**By Janine Alexis Miguel**

**November 7, 2024**

THIS early, rice imports have surpassed last year's level and could hit 4.2 million metric tons (MT) by the end of 2024, Department of Agriculture (DA) technical advisory group member and former undersecretary for rice industry development Leocadio Sebastian said on Wednesday at the International World Rice Conference Summit in Manila.

Citing data from the DA-Bureau of Plant Industry, Sebastian noted that as of Oct. 30, foreign shipments of the staple had totaled 3.8 million MT, exceeding the 3.6 million MT in 2023.

"So, that means [this] November and December, we will probably be expecting another 400,000 metric tons minimum," he said while attributing the higher projected shipments to low domestic rice production due to typhoons and El Niño.

"We will probably raise [the imports] to about 4.2 million metric tons by the end of the year," he added.

Domestic rice output may be lower than 19.41 million MT this year, following multiple typhoons that hit the country.

Palay (unmilled rice) production based on standing crop from July to September could have decreased to 3.35 million MT, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

This indicates an 11.9-percent decline from its actual output of 3.80 million MT in the same period in 2023.

"The production is already less than 900,000 metric tons in terms of palay compared to last year. The total production this year will be much lower than the 20 million [MT] that was produced last year," Sebastian said.

This also explains why the Philippines needs to import more, either in December or in January, to meet the demand, especially during the lean months, he pointed out.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Manila office forecasts the Philippines will import around 4.7 million MT of rice this year, higher than the previous estimate of 4.6 million MT. The agency cited the return of India to the world market following the end of a 14-month export ban on non-basmati white rice on Sept. 28.

"Global trade is now set to rise in 2025, as top exporter India expands shipments and global rice prices are expected to fall," the USDA said in its latest Grain report.

**It also projected the Philippines will produce 12.3 million MT of milled rice this year, lower than the previous forecast of 12.7 million MT.**

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/07/business/top-business/ph-rice-imports-surpass-2023-level/1998804>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# PhilRice marks 39th anniversary

By The Manila Times

November 7, 2024

AGRICULTURE Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has commended the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice) for its role in shaping the future of Philippine agriculture through innovation as the institute marked its 39th anniversary on Tuesday.

"As we celebrate this 39-year milestone, I underscore PhilRice's role in shaping the future of Philippine agriculture. You are not just improving rice production; you are improving lives," he said.

The theme for the 39th anniversary celebration of PhilRice is "Bida ang Sama-sama para sa Masaganang Bagong Pilipinas," underscoring the importance of partnerships in attaining higher rice yields amid persistent challenges like climate change.





The Philippine Rice Research Institute headquarters in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. PHILRICE PHOTO

Tiu Laurel tied PhilRice's contributions to the government's Masagana Rice Industry Development Program (MRIDP), an initiative to boost food supply and strengthen the rice value chain.

"PhilRice has been instrumental in fostering a culture of collaboration and resource-sharing among farmers," he said.

One of PhilRice's strategies has been promoting farmer clusters to enhance access to resources, information and technology, enabling farmers to cope with agricultural challenges. This, the agriculture chief noted, is critical to the success of MRIDP, particularly as farmers face climate-related issues such as the recent El Niño and La Niña.

Tiu Laurel cited PhilRice's proactive response to climate-related challenges including the recent El Niño and La Niña as the institute provided early maturing rice varieties and information to help farmers adapt to changing conditions.



Also, as of Aug. 31, PhilRice, through the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund Seed Program, distributed 18.25 million bags of certified seeds, benefitting 1.77 million beneficiaries.

The institute's social media page also launched its #BeClimateSmart campaign, which has reached more than 500,000 netizens.

"This responsiveness shows how deeply PhilRice cares for the well-being of our farmers," he said.

For her part, Mayor Baby Armi Alvarez of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, where the PhilRice headquarters is located, lauded the institute's role in fostering collaboration among farmers, researchers and policymakers.

"PhilRice has created a powerful synergy, bringing together diverse stakeholders who work hand in hand to advance agricultural science and address the challenges faced by our nation's rice industry," Alvarez said.

The local government of Muñoz, she added, remains committed to supporting PhilRice's mission by providing essential resources to create an environment conducive to agricultural research and development.

As part of its anniversary celebration, PhilRice will conduct the "SRO Seminar Series," in honor of its first executive director, Santiago Obien. The seminar series will feature Manuel Logroño, president and founder of Maize Life and Farming Science. The seminar aims to enhance the management and leadership skills of the institute's staff.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/07/business/agribusiness/philrice-marks-39th-anniversary/1998711>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# First Cagayan coffee expo held

By [Leander C. Domingo](#)

November 7, 2024

TO boost the coffee industry in Cagayan Valley (Region 2), the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 2 (DA-RFO2) gathered coffee enthusiasts, farmers, cooperatives and government officials in the historic first Cagayan Valley Coffee Exposition at the Isabela Convention Center in Cauayan, Isabela, on Oct. 28.

Anchored on the theme "Blended with Arts, Brewed with Passion: Toward Sustainable Coffee Industry," the groundbreaking event was part of the first Agri-Ugnayan 2024 to celebrate the achievements in making the coffee industry in the region a thriving one.

Paul Buenavista of the DA Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section said the exposition was in response to the "DA's vision of achieving food security for the Filipino people through boosting agricultural productivity and ensuring food accessibility and affordability."



**Photo shows the participants of the historic first Cagayan Valley Coffee Exposition at the Isabela Convention Center in Cauayan, Isabela, on Oct. 28, 2024. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PHOTO**

"The exposition provided a platform for local coffee farmers' cooperatives and associations to showcase their distinct products and innovative approaches to coffee cultivation and allowed them to network and exchange insights with key industry players, aligning with the DA-RFO2's goal of incorporating farmers into the value chain," Buenavista said.

"The exposition provided a platform for local coffee farmers' cooperatives and associations to showcase their distinct products and innovative approaches to coffee cultivation and allowed them to network and exchange insights with key industry players, aligning with the DA-RFO2's goal of incorporating farmers into the value chain," Buenavista said.

DA-RFO2 Executive Director Rose Mary Aquino acknowledged the dedicated efforts of the DA staff in the region in organizing the event.

"[This] truly reflects a deep commitment to artistry and passion for building a resilient, sustainable coffee sector," she said.

In her message, Aquino highlighted the unique connection between the "warmth of our coffee and the strong [and] lasting partnerships among stakeholders."

Calling for continued collaboration in support of the agriculture and fisheries programs in Cagayan Valley, aligning with the national food security objectives, Aquino said, "We are encouraging coffee industry partners to explore local alternatives" suggesting the potential of instant coffee infused with corn as a plant-based creamer, which is a nod to the region's leading position in corn production."

She said this innovation represents a sustainable option that supports local farmers.

Aquino also proposed a resolution advocating for the inclusion of coffee-related projects in Land Bank of the Philippines loan programs to aid industry growth and sustainability.

"Our vision aligns with the broader mission of the DA-RFO2 to position the Cagayan Valley region as a modernized hub for quality agricultural products, embodying the agency's commitment as a dedicated DA-DOS Ayo," Aquino said. DA-DOS Ayo stands for Agency Delivering Outstanding Services.

Meanwhile, Buenavista noted that one of the highlights of the event was the soft launching and raising a ceremonial toast of the new coffee 3-in-1 instant coffee product, marking a promising addition to Cagayan Valley's coffee offerings.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. also gave a message delivered by Joseph Manicad, DA-High Value Crops Development

Program director, underscoring the department's commitment to elevating the coffee industry in the region and nationwide.

Tiu Laurel said that Cagayan Valley has the potential to become a major player in quality coffee production because of its rich soil, ideal climate and dedicated farmers.

"The DA is committed to fostering collaborations with local governments, private partners and coffee cooperatives to strengthen the region's coffee production and enable agripreneurs to compete on a global scale," he said in applauding the collective achievements that make events like the first Coffee Expo instrumental in propelling the region's coffee industry forward toward a sustainable and prosperous future.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/07/business/agribusiness/first-cagayan-coffee-expo-held/1998715>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# Malolos provided with agri equipment

By Philippine News Agency

November 7, 2024

**MALOLOS, Bulacan** — To bolster the resilience and productivity of Bulacan's agricultural and fisheries sectors, the Provincial Agriculture Office, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 3 office, distributed farm machineries and postharvest facilities to farmers and livelihood assistance to fisherfolk at the covered court of Bulacan Polytechnic College on Tuesday.

Gov. Daniel Fernando highlighted the importance of the initiative in supporting Bulacan's food security goals and ensuring a thriving agricultural sector.

"You are among those who give life to the blessings that God gives. God uses you to give us food — to feed the people, so it is just proper to give you those interventions for your usage. Because we need to level up our farmers and machineries," he said in Filipino.

Provincial agriculturist Ma. Gloria SF. Carrillo said 10 farmers cooperatives and associations (FCAs) received 50 units of rainwater harvesting facilities amounting to P500,000 to provide supplemental or alternative irrigation sources for farmers, preventing drought and water-shortage-induced crop production losses.

"A total of 22 FCAs and two LGUs (local government units) in the province received farm machineries including five units of four-wheel tractor with driven disc plow, five units of hand tractor, 10 units of levee maker, 13 units of rice combine harvester, two units of recirculating dryer and one unit of single pass rice mill (stationary), all amounting to a total of P41.33 million from the 2024 PHilMech (Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization) Fund," Carillo added.

To improve the standard of living of fisherfolk in the province, they were given gillnets, marine engines, fish smoking technology package, fish vending equipment and boats with engines, among others, with a total cost of P2.18 million.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/07/business/agribusiness/malolos-provided-with-agri-equipment/1998710>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# **Caraga farmers trained on coco water processing**

**By The Manila Times**

**November 7, 2024**

FARMERS in Caraga (Region 13) underwent an intensive three-day skills training on processing coconut water utilizing the technology developed by the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech).

The agency said it conducted the training through its Technology Management and Training Division (TMTD) in Jabonga, Agusan del Norte, on Oct. 23 to 25.

The project was conducted under the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan in collaboration with the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and the Department of Trade and Industry offices in Caraga, and SUKI Trading Corp.

"Such efforts are vital in creating more opportunities for local communities. By fostering a skilled workforce, the training is expected to contribute significantly to developing the coconut industry in the Caraga Region," PHilMech said.

Ernaly Colon, coconut production and regulation officer of PCA-Caraga, emphasized the importance of the training.

"The initiative is significant as it will serve as orientation, training and awareness regarding the development and projects within the coconut industry," she said in Filipino.

The training activity provided participants with lectures on the status of the coconut food production industry in the country, good manufacturing practices and food safety, production of beverages from coconut water and the coconut water processing system. It was essential for the participants to be educated on quality control measures and the importance of maintaining high hygiene standards to ensure product safety and marketability.

Irene Morales, manager of Libas Multipurpose Cooperative, said the training enhanced their technical skills and provided insights into best practices and innovative techniques in coconut water processing.

Remellie Hermoso, supervising science research specialist of the PhilMech-TMTD, said the trainees and the agencies involved in the training are always ready to assist them.

"Continue to strive, and we are here to support and assist you... the key to the success of this event lies in collaboration," he said in Filipino.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/07/business/agribusiness/caraga-farmers-trained-on-coco-water-processing/1998673>



## **BUSINESS MIRROR:**

# **Storms, hog disease slash Q3 agriculture output—PSA**

Ada Pelonia  
November 6, 2024

THE country's farm production contracted for the second consecutive quarter due to lower palay and hog production in July to September, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said Wednesday.

PSA reported that agricultural production in terms of value shrank by 3.7 percent in the third quarter. In the previous quarter, output also fell by 3.3 percent.

According to the Department of Agriculture (DA), prolonged adverse weather conditions and persisting impacts of the African swine fever (ASF) on hog production took a toll on agricultural output in July to September.

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

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

Data from the PSA showed that the crop, livestock, and fisheries subsectors registered declines in terms of value. Only the poultry subsector maintained its positive performance in the third quarter. The value of agriculture and fisheries production amounted to P397.43 billion at constant prices during the period. This was lower than last year’s P412.7 billion.

As output fell for two consecutive quarters, DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said it would be difficult for the government to hit its agriculture growth target of 2 percent for 2024.

“It will be difficult to reach that target. For one, the Philippines could be struck by natural calamities (during the fourth quarter) which could pull down agriculture performance,” de Mesa told reporters in an interview on Wednesday.

Marie Annette Galvez-Dacul, executive director of the University of Asia and the Pacific's (UA&P) Center for Food and Agribusiness, said weather disruptions, rising input costs and the persistent threat of ASF affected dented farm output this year.

“UA&P expects agri growth at -0.5 to 0.5 percent in 2024,” Dacul told the BusinessMirror.

PSA data showed that crop production, which amounted to P211.62 billion, declined by 5.1 percent year-on-year. Rice output, which accounts for a chunk of crops production, fell by 12.3 percent.

Livestock production amounted to P61.67 billion and contracted by 6.7 percent during the reference period, with the value of hog production recording an 8-percent decline.

The Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (SINAG) said the series of typhoons that devastated the country and the ASF outbreaks contributed to this decline.

“More typhoons struck the country in the third quarter compared to last year and more farms were also devastated by ASF,” SINAG Executive Director Jayson Cainglet told the BusinessMirror.

National Federation of Hog Farmers Inc. (NatFed) confirmed that there were more cases of ASF in the third quarter.

“The decline in third quarter hog production was likely due to the ASF outbreak nationwide during the months of June to August,” Alfred Ng, Vice Chairman NatFed told the BusinessMirror.

“We hope the industry will try to bounce back by fourth quarter or at least by first quarter of 2025 so that we can increase our production and rely less on imports,” he added.

Based on PSA data, the output of fisheries subsector also declined by 5.5 percent. The subsector's output was valued at P55.48 billion.

Poultry, which amounted to P68.66 billion, posted a growth of 5.8 percent, with chicken and chicken eggs production recording increments in terms of value.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/06/storms-hog-disease-slash-q3-agriculture-output-psa/>

## **BUSINESS MIRROR:**

# **Ginger still expensive as demand outpaces supply—DA**

Ada Pelonia  
November 6, 2024

The retail prices of ginger remained elevated despite the arrival of nearly 4,800 metric tons (MT) of imports in the country mainly due to the strong demand for the crop from manufacturers of herbal and turmeric teas.

Data from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) showed that 4,759 MT of imported ginger entered the country as of October 30. The volume represents 31 percent of the 15,225 MT expected ginger imports this year.

Based on the DA's latest report on commodity prices, retail prices of ginger ranged from P250 to P300 per kilo in Metro Manila markets as of November 2. Last month, the crop was sold from a range of P180 per kilo to P300 per kilo. A year ago, retail prices ranged from P100 per kilo to P200 per kilo, according to government data.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said ginger should be sold from a range of P80 per kilo to less than P100 per kilo.

Ginger imports has been increasing due to the rising demand of industrial users for the crop which they use in making herbal and turmeric teas. These products are regarded as remedies for coughs and colds, according to de Mesa.

He also noted that the country's ginger-producing regions could not keep up with this demand following the damage inflicted by bad weather on local plantations.

Last month, the DA official said BPI approved the sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances (SPSICs) for ginger from Vietnam and Indonesia, which were allocated 50 MT each.

De Mesa noted that this would serve as alternative sources for the Philippines, since most of the country's ginger imports come from China.

The DA is pushing for the expansion of areas planted with ginger to meet the rising demand of food manufacturers for the crop. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/12/government-sets-sights-on-expanding-ginger-production-areas/>)

Citing official government data, Agriculture Undersecretary Cheryl Marie Natividad-Caballero noted the fluctuation in production and harvest area since 2010.

Caballero said, however, that there were “significant increases” in areas planted with ginger in 2023, when it jumped to 4,816.26 hectares (ha), from 4,057.30 hectares ha in 2022.

“Our ginger production areas are increasing, and we want to maintain it. We will also source out quality planting materials for distribution and production expansion to encourage local production and make farmers more competitive,” she told the BusinessMirror via SMS.

The DA official said ginger yield declined to 6.1 MT per ha in 2023, from 7.1 MT/ha in 2022.

Despite this, the expansion in hectarage allowed the Philippines to post a slight increase in output last year. In 2023, estimated ginger production was pegged at nearly 29,380 MT, almost 2 percent higher than the 28,806.83 MT recorded in 2022.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/06/ginger-still-expensive-as-demand-outpaces-supply-da/>

**BUSINESS MIRROR:**

# ‘Pacific island nation to accelerate agrifood system transformation’

BusinessMirror  
November 6, 2024

The Pacific small island developing states (SIDS) are targeting to fasttrack the implementation of measures that will transform their agrifood systems given their increasing vulnerability to the climate crisis.

Government officials and the private sector from Pacific island nations are currently in Fiji for a high-level forum organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the government of Fiji.

The SIDS Solutions Forum 2024, which will run until November 8, is aimed at sharing “innovative solutions” and showcasing their impacts and scalability to transform how food is produced, distributed and consumed in the Pacific Islands region.

“The unique characteristics of SIDS make them particularly vulnerable to a series of challenges including food insecurity, malnutrition, the impact of the climate crisis, economic shocks and other environmental and demographic pressures,” said FAO Director-General QU Dongyu in his opening speech.

“In spite of their vulnerabilities, SIDS harbor a wealth of knowledge and often take the lead on the international stage, drawing attention to pressing global issues.”

“Our stories, as those of old, of resilience and innovation that emerge from our communities are powerful examples of what has been possible in the face of difficulties and challenges, and they will inspire us to strive for what is possible in the future,” said Fiji’s Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka in his opening remarks.

The gathering brings together hundreds of professionals including public policymakers, practitioners, international donors, community leaders, agri-entrepreneurs, investors,

and private sector representatives with the theme “Transforming Agrifood Systems for our Blue Pacific Continent through Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment and a Better Life.”

Participants include ministers from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu as well as non-Pacific government ministers.

A townhall style interactive session hosted by Qu and the Fiji Minister of Agriculture and Waterways, Vatimi Rayalu, engaged with a range of stakeholders including civil society, regional organizations and global development partners and forms part of the process leading to the signing of Memoranda of Understanding between FAO and partners.

During the week, the forum will also focus on progress and innovation in the Pacific through FAO’s “Four Betters” principles that guide its work – Better Nutrition, Better Production, a Better Environment and a Better Life, leaving no one behind. Other key topics on the agenda include agroforestry, data and FAO’s Digital Village Initiative and Hand in Hand Initiative.

Despite having substantial natural resources and rich biodiversity, the Pacific Islands face increased impacts from climate change and natural disasters, as well as non-communicable diseases and the challenges of producing and distributing healthy and nutritious food.

FAO said the SIDS Solutions Forum’s outcomes will be integral to supporting the region’s guiding strategies, as articulated in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda For SIDS. It seeks to convene the forum every two years to ensure active Solutions support and continue to “spur Pacific collaboration and innovation.”

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/06/pacific-island-nation-to-accelerate-agrifood-system-transformation/>

## **BUSINESS MIRROR:**

# **Crop insurer issues ₱24.4M indemnification checks**

Ada Pelonia  
November 7, 2024



File photo: Residents ride a boat as they pass by a house submerged in floodwaters caused by Tropical Storm Trami, locally named Kristine, as it continues to inundate Libon town, Albay province, Philippines on Thursday Oct. 24, 2024. (AP Photo/John Michael Magdasoc)

MORE than 2,000 farmers from Bicol received indemnification checks worth P24.4 million from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC) as compensation for damage brought by typhoon Kristine (international name: Trami).

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. distributed the checks to the affected farmers during the visit last Wednesday of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to the Bicol region. Marcos purportedly checked the progress of government relief and recovery operations in hard-hit provinces.

The Bicol region produces rice, corn, vegetables, pili nuts, pineapple, cacao, coconut, livestock and poultry.

The PCIC distributed indemnification checks to 2,644 farmers in Albay, Catanduanes, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Masbate and Sorsogon, according to a statement by the Department of Agriculture.

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

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

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

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

Aside from PCIC indemnification, the DA said it also provided other assistance to farmers, including farm inputs like seeds and fertilizers.

In its latest bulletin, the DA said the agricultural damage brought by typhoon Kristine has reached P6.20 billion. It broke down the value of the damages as follows: P4.46 billion for rice; P865.09 million for high-value crops; P74.05 million for corn; and, P40.34 million for cassava.

For livestock and poultry, 7,352 heads of swine, chicken, and cattle, among others, were affected by the typhoon valued at P13.89 million.

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

Agricultural infrastructures such as irrigation facilities and other farm structures were also hit by the storm, with damage valued at P28 million and P50.46 million, respectively.

Aside from this, damaged machinery also recorded a P300,000 loss, according to the DA. **Image credits: [AP/John Michael Magdasoc](#)**

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/07/crop-insurer-issues-%e2%82%a724-4m-indemnification-checks/>



## **BUSINESS MIRROR:**

# **‘Foreign farms will plug rice supply shortfall’**

Ada Pelonia  
November 6, 2024

The Philippines’ rice imports could exceed 4.2 million metric tons (MMT) by yearend as bad weather widened the projected shortfall in domestic production, according to a former senior official of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Citing data from the DA, former Agriculture Undersecretary Leocadio Sebastian said rice planters lost about 900,000 metric tons (MT) due to El Nino and the recent storms. This figure excludes the impact of severe tropical storm Kristine on local plantations.

“Because of the projected shortfall this year, we may have to bring in more supply either in December or in January (2025),” Sebastian said during the World Rice Conference held in Pasay City on Wednesday.

He said a minimum of 400,000 metric tons (MT) could enter the country in the last two months of 2024.

“It could be more depending again on how our traders will also be reacting to the global market.”

Last January, Sebastian was designated as a member of the Secretary’s Technical Advisory Group (STAG).

Figures from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BPI) showed that rice import arrivals as of October 30 reached 3.79 MMT.

Of the volume that arrived in the Philippines, BPI data showed that over 2.97 MMT came from Vietnam, which maintained its status as the country’s top source of imports.

Thailand was the second-largest supplier as it accounted for 470,273.28 MT. This was followed by Pakistan with 175,174.48 MT; Myanmar, 134,966.75 MT; and India, 22,058.64 MT.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) said recently that the Philippines is poised to remain as the world's largest rice importer. It also adjusted upward its initial estimate for the Philippines's imported rice purchases.

In its latest report, the international agency said the Philippines will buy as much as 4.7 MMT of rice mostly from Vietnam this year.

The USDA also said the country's rice imports in 2025 could reach 4.9 MMT due to an anticipated reduction in output. The estimate is higher than its previous forecast of 4.6 MMT

“Next year, I think the Philippines will continue to be a good market for exporters from Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, India, and Pakistan,” Sebastian said.

The DA said the Philippines may end 2024 with a palay output of 19.41 MMT, 3.24 percent lower than the record 20.06 MMT it produced last year. The projected 2024 palay output is equivalent to 12.69 MMT in milled terms.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/06/foreign-farms-will-plug-rice-supply-shortfall/>