

## CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY MARCH 22, 2025

### **A. MANILA BULLETIN:**

DA to launch Kadiwa program in housing projects

Marcos brings gov't services to Cavite; inspects CALAX construction

Middle East agri-fishery trade mission secures \$27 million in sales

VegFest Pilipinas 2025 calls for sustainable food systems

Lambino says 'rice diplomacy' crucial to food security in the Philippines

### **B. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

Banana exporters fear losing Japan market

### **C. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

Remote sitio farmer-turned-fishpond owner empowered by LANDBANK, DA

Benguet town celebrates sweet bounty of strawberries

### **D. REMATE:**

25% pagtalima sa pork MSRP sa NCR wet markets nakikita ng DA

Kadiwa ng Pangulo itatayo sa ilang NHA housing projects

NIA, LMP magsasanib-pwersa para sa BBM rice sale expansion sa Abril

### **E. ABANTE:**

PBBM pinabuhusan ng murang bigas sa mga Kadiwa store

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# DA to launch Kadiwa program in housing projects

**BY DEXTER BARRO II**

Mar 22, 2025 06:11 AM



(Center) Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel and NHA General Manager Joeben Tai (right) during the ceremonial signing of the memorandum of understanding (DA photo)

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is teaming up with the National Housing Authority (NHA) to bring the Kadiwa ng Pangulo (KNP) program to housing projects, ensuring greater access to affordable goods.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel formalized this partnership through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with NHA General Manager Joeben Tai.

In a statement on Friday, March 21, Laurel said this agreement represents a crucial step in ensuring that every Filipino in housing communities can benefit from robust food security.

“Providing homes is essential, but true community development goes beyond shelter. It must also include sustainable food systems, livelihood opportunities, and economic stability,” he said.

The MOU establishes a framework to oversee the institutionalization of KNP stores across NHA projects nationwide.

Specifically, logistical and technical support will be provided to the NHA for setting up these stores.

The KNP, established under the Marcos administration, is part of the government’s efforts to grant farmers and fishermen direct access to venues where they can sell their produce straight to consumers.

By removing the so-called middlemen, farmers and fishermen can directly profit from their products while enabling consumers to purchase goods at lower prices.

The Rice-for-All (RFA) program is a key component in the KNP, which offers rice for as low as ₱33 per kilo. This is alongside the rice priced at ₱29 per kilo, only available for the country's vulnerable sectors.

“The [KNP] program is not just an initiative, it is a concrete government action to directly address the agricultural and economic challenges our country faces today,” said Laurel.

Meanwhile, Tai said the MOU with the DA is a “strong demonstration” of the agency’s support for the KNP program.

“This is our way of helping residents in NHA housing projects improve their daily lives,” he noted.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/3/22/da-to-launch-kadiwa-program-in-housing-projects>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Marcos brings gov't services to Cavite; inspects CALAX construction

BY ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

Mar 21, 2025 03:47 PM

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## AT A GLANCE

- Prior to the job fair, President Marcos led an inspection of the ongoing construction of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) Governor's Drive Interchange.

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President Marcos renewed his promise to Filipinos that the government would not ignore their needs as he led the delivery of different services to Dasmariñas, Cavite, on Friday, March 21.



*Photos: Mark*

*Balmores/RTVM*

"Hindi po kami aalis hangga't kayo ay nangangailangan ng tulong galing sa pamahalaan (We will not leave you as long as you need the government's help)," he said.

"Nandito po kami lagi (We're always here)," he added.

## ADVERTISEMENT

The "Trabaho at Serbisyong Pangkalusugan sa Bagong Pilipinas" at the Dasmariñas Arena on Friday hosted about 3,000 graduates of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4PS) and beneficiaries of the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) for the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)-led job fair.

The event offered 3,600 job vacancies from 41 employers, comprising 38 local and three overseas companies. It likewise featured a one-stop shop for employment pre-screening and advisory services provided by various national government agencies.

During the event, DOLE distributed P5,600 each to 500 beneficiaries of the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program and awarded various livelihood and financial aids to its beneficiaries under the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP).

The event also featured a two-part medical mission by the Department of Health (DOH) which offers screening laboratory services, including electrocardiograms (ECGs) and X-rays, medical consultations,

pneumonia vaccinations, anti-dengue commodities, and the provision of medicines, among other services.

In addition, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) distributed P3,000 to each AICS beneficiary, while the Department of Agriculture (DA)-led KADIWA stalls provided affordable basic goods.

The National Food Authority (NFA) also sold a total of 8,000 kilos (160 bags) of rice at P29 per kilo, along with 2,500 kilos (50 bags) of rice under the Rice-For-All (RFA) program at P35 per kilo.

### ***CALAX inspection***

Prior to the job fair, President Marcos led an inspection of the ongoing construction of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) Governor's Drive Interchange.

CALAX, a 44.6-kilometer four-lane expressway, aims to improve connectivity between Cavite and Laguna, home to the country's key economic zones.

During the inspection, particular focus was given to the Governor's Drive Interchange, which is currently 44 percent complete and targeted for full operation by the third quarter of 2025. Once operational, this segment will decongest Governor's Drive and provide seamless access to major economic hubs in the region.

The completion of the CALAX is expected to ease traffic on major thoroughfares such as Governor's Drive, Aguinaldo Highway, and Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Road, further boosting trade, tourism, and economic activity in the region.

It is also expected to significantly reduce travel time between the Manila-Cavite Expressway (Cavitex) and South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) by about 45 minutes, benefiting up to 95,000 motorists daily.

Additionally, it will connect to Cavitex, providing a seamless link between Metro Manila and Calabarzon.

Currently, operational segments of CALAX include entry at Mamplasan and interchanges at Laguna Boulevard, Laguna Technopark, Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Road, Silang East, and Silang Aguinaldo.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/3/21/govt-services-cavite-calax-construction>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Middle East agri-fishery trade mission secures \$27 million in sales

**BY DEXTER BARRO II**

Mar 21, 2025 12:28 PM



The government-led trade mission to the Middle East in February, aimed at expanding market opportunities and strengthening business partnerships for Philippine agricultural and fisheries exports, has generated \$27.28 million (over ₱1.5 billion) in sales.

Led by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), the trade mission ran from Feb. 7 to 21.

It featured 26 Philippine exporters who directly engaged with buyers, distributors, and industry leaders across the region through store visits, supplier meetings, and business-matching sessions.

“The success we have seen in the business mission reflects the growing global recognition of the quality and competitiveness of Philippine agri-fishery and consumer products,” said DTI Secretary Cristina Roque in a statement.

Roque said linking exporters to businesses in the Middle East delivers a win-win scenario for both the local industry and products that are proudly Filipino.

“As we continue to forge stronger connections with key markets in this region, we are laying the groundwork for sustained growth and long-term success for our exporters that ensure our local export goods remain in high demand worldwide,” she added.

This Middle East trade mission marks the first major initiative between the DA and the DTI after signing a memorandum of agreement (MOA) on agriculture and fisheries export development and promotion last year.

Jordan, one of the countries visited, has expressed interest in sourcing additional marine products and tropical fruits from the Philippines.

The DTI said this opens avenues for growth in export markets that have not historically been major buyers of Philippine products.

Exports of agricultural and fisheries products are typically directed to neighboring Southeast Asian countries, the United States (US), Japan, and China.

The trade mission also visited Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

HDR Foods Corp., manufacturer of Mother's Best condiments, said its participation provided the company with "valuable insights" into its UAE operations.

"Through the B2B [business-to-business] meetings, we were able to discuss our concerns with our distributor, including the marketing strategies we wanted to implement. HDR Foods is hopeful that, after the B2B activities, our products will have a greater presence across the UAE," its Exports Sales Manager Aris Unson said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/3/21/middle-east-agri-fishery-trade-mission-secures-27-million-in-sales>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# VegFest Pilipinas 2025 calls for sustainable food systems

Celebrating plant-based living to foster climate action and food justice

**BY CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT PHILIPPINES**

Mar 21, 2025 03:56 PM



As VegFest Pilipinas celebrates its 10th anniversary, the festival continues to champion plant-based living as a means of fostering climate action and food justice. Scheduled to take place on March 29 to 30, 2025, at Paseo De Roxas, Makati, the event invites Filipinos to explore how plant-based choices contribute to a more sustainable future. Attendees can look forward to:

- Inspiring talks from experts in sustainability, health, and plant-based living
- Delicious vegan food and drinks
- Sustainable products and eco-friendly alternatives
- Festive performances and interactive games
- Rescued animal adoption opportunities
- A vibrant community advocating for a kinder, healthier world

## **Urgency of sustainable food systems**

Filipino cuisine is celebrated for its rich flavors and diverse dishes, many of which prominently feature meat, poultry, and other animal-based ingredients. While these traditional foods are an essential part of our culture, they also contribute significantly to climate change and environmental degradation.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Climate Change and Land, the global food system is responsible for approximately 21 percent to 37 percent of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Agriculture and land use—particularly livestock farming—are among the largest contributors to these emissions.

Livestock farming is a major source of methane, a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide in trapping heat over a 20-year period. Research also showed that despite providing just 18 percent of global calorie intake and 37 percent of global protein intake, meat, and dairy production uses 83 percent of farmland and accounts for 60 percent of agriculture-related GHG emissions. These numbers underscore the disproportionate environmental cost of animal agriculture.

## **Challenges in the local agricultural sector**

In the Philippines, agriculture remains a crucial yet challenging industry. Despite its hard work, more than 30 percent of Filipino farmers live below the poverty line, according to data released by the



Philippine Statistics Authority in 2023. Many farmers struggle with limited access to financial support, technology, and climate-resilient farming methods. At the same time, extreme weather events—such as typhoons, droughts, and rising temperatures—pose increasing threats to their livelihoods and food security.

The agricultural sector is at the heart of the country's socioeconomic and environmental challenges, with poverty and climate change exerting significant pressure on farmers and food production. Transitioning to sustainable agricultural practices is not only vital for environmental conservation but also essential for improving the livelihoods of those who depend on farming. The government, businesses, and communities must collaborate to break the cycle of poverty, address climate change, and prevent biodiversity loss.

Another essential aspect of this transformation is a shift in food consumption patterns. By reducing reliance on resource-intensive animal agriculture and embracing plant-based diets, individuals can help lower greenhouse gas emissions and promote a more sustainable and equitable food system. This transition creates opportunities for local farmers to diversify their crops, lessen dependence on livestock, and adopt regenerative agricultural practices. By cultivating more plant-based food sources, farmers can contribute to a stable, sustainable food supply while improving their economic prospects and resilience to climate change.

### **Toward greener food systems**

The IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land recognizes that dietary shifts—such as reducing meat and dairy consumption—are effective strategies for climate change mitigation. Transitioning to plant-based diets can lower greenhouse gas emissions, reduce land and water use, and promote biodiversity. Supporting sustainable agricultural practices not only preserves natural resources but also strengthens Filipino farmers' resilience against climate change.

VegFest Pilipinas proudly endorses the Plant-Based Treaty, a global initiative urging governments to transition away from animal agriculture to combat climate change, restore ecosystems, and ensure food security.

By participating in the festival this year, individuals can take meaningful steps toward sustainability. Ultimately, it serves as an opportunity to make a positive impact on the planet, support Filipino farmers, and contribute to a healthier future for generations to come.

*About the Author: One of the VegFest Pilipinas organizers is Climate Reality Leader Peachie Dioquino-Valera, a member of the 1,800-strong Climate Reality Leaders network in the Philippines. An earlier version of this article was written by Jamela Dennise S. Andres, with edits and contributions from Climate Reality Philippines.*

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/3/21/veg-fest-pilipinas-2025-calls-for-sustainable-food-systems>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Lambino says 'rice diplomacy' crucial to food security in the Philippines

**BY DHEL NAZARIO**

Mar 21, 2025 03:26 PM

Partido Demokratiko Pilipino (PDP-Laban) senatorial candidate Raul Lambino said on Friday, March 21, that the Philippines must adopt “rice diplomacy” as a strategic approach to international relations to safeguard long-term food security.



(MB file photo)

“With the country facing increasing food insecurity, the government must strengthen diplomatic efforts to secure long-term rice supply agreements with key exporters such as Vietnam, Thailand, India, and Pakistan,” Lambino stated.

“We must proactively leverage rice trade not only to ensure stable food supplies but also to forge stronger economic and political partnerships with major rice-producing nations,” he added.

Lambino emphasized that rice diplomacy extends beyond securing imports, highlighting its potential to enhance cooperation, promote knowledge sharing, and integrate sustainable and innovative farming practices.

“We need the expertise and support of efficient rice-producing nations to enhance our domestic agricultural capabilities, boost local rice production, and achieve long-term food security,” he said.

Lambino, a former Cabinet official, previously held key positions including Chief Executive Officer of the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority and Presidential Adviser for Northern Luzon.

Last month, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. declared a “food security emergency” in response to the sharp rise in domestic rice prices, despite declining global market prices.

In 2024, the Philippines’ rice imports reached a record 4.68 million metric tons, primarily due to lower domestic production and reduced import tariffs.

Historically, surges in rice prices have been a major driver of inflation, significantly affecting food costs and overall consumer prices.

A recent study found that fluctuations in rice prices have a greater impact on inflation than fuel prices, underscoring the urgency of addressing supply challenges.

Lambino reaffirmed his commitment to championing policies that will secure the nation’s food supply, stabilize prices, and support Filipino farmers through strategic international partnerships and agricultural development programs.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/3/21/lambino-says-rice-diplomacy-crucial-to-food-security-in-the-philippines>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Banana exporters fear losing Japan market

**Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas** - The Philippine Star

March 22, 2025 | 12:00am



The Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PBGEA) is concerned that the country may lose its hold on the Japan market as competition in key Asian markets continues to heat up, with lower tariffs benefitting more foreign suppliers including Vietnam.

STAR / File

## **After losing China in 2024**

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines lost its crown as the top banana supplier to China last year. Will the country also lose the Japan market?

The Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PBGEA) is concerned that the country may lose its hold on the Japan market as competition in key Asian markets continues to heat up, with lower tariffs benefitting more foreign suppliers including Vietnam.

“(Vietnam’s) market share in Japan has also been increasing with more areas planted with exportable bananas. The gradual reduction of its banana tariffs in Japan is attributed to its membership in the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) agreement led by Japan,” PBGEA said.

“The Philippines is not a member (of CPTPP). By 2028, Vietnamese bananas will have zero tariff (in Japan),” PBGEA added.

The STAR broke the story that Vietnam upended the Philippines’ 20-year reign as the top supplier of bananas to China due to growing production and better prices in Vietnam and worsening geopolitical tensions between Manila and Beijing.

PBGEA warned of increasing banana exports from Vietnam and Cambodia, which currently benefit from lower tariff rates, and South American producers like Mexico and Peru, which enjoy zero tariff on their bananas in Japan.

The group renewed its call for the government to negotiate for the reduction and, if possible, elimination of Japan tariffs on Philippine bananas to ensure an “even playing field.”

“Although the review of the Philippine-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement is long overdue, Philippine negotiators have yet to convince their Japanese counterparts to sit down and renegotiate,” PBGEA said.

Japan is one of the world’s top banana markets, being the fourth largest in terms of import value and sixth largest in terms of import volume.

Japan has imported an average of 1.04 million metric tons (MT) of bananas in the past two decades, based on International Trade Center (ITC) data, with the Philippines serving as its top supplier over the years.

However, the Philippines' share in the Japan banana market has been on a downward trend since 2005 after foreign competitors gained ground due to lower tariffs.

Between 2005 and 2024, the Philippines lost at least 15 percent of market share in the Japan banana market, ITC data analyzed by The STAR showed.

Last year, the country accounted for three-fourths of the total volume of bananas imported by Japan. The Philippines used to have an average market share of 90 percent in Japan.

Ecuador, the world's top banana exporter, now has an average market share of 10 percent in Japan, double than what it had a decade ago.

Furthermore, countries like Mexico, Vietnam and Cambodia, which all had virtually zero market share in Japan two decades ago, are consistently eroding the Philippines' stronghold in the key Asian market. In 2024, Mexico had a market share of six percent while Vietnam and Cambodia had 3.2 percent and 1.06 percent, respectively.

At present, Philippine bananas are levied by Japan with an eight percent tariff during the summer season (April 1 to Sept. 30) and 18 percent during the winter season (Oct. 1 to March 31).

"Production woes in the Philippines affected the steady quantities demanded by the market thus prompting other suppliers to fill the gap created. With lower or zero tariffs imposed on other suppliers, Philippine bananas will continue to lose their competitiveness," PBGEA said.

PBGEA said Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has committed to pursue "non-traditional but innovative" avenues in seeking tariff reduction in Japan.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2025/03/22/2430104/banana-exporters-fear-losing-japan-market>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Remote sitio farmer-turned-fishpond owner empowered by LANDBANK, DA

INQUIRER.net BrandRoom / 01:47 PM March 22, 2025

For over 30 years, Eric A. Janolino has dedicated his life to farming palay, corn, and various vegetables in the remote sitio of Tingkulan in Barangay Bagoceboc. As someone without formal education, farming was the only way Eric knew to support his growing family. Yet, despite decades of hard work, life was a constant uphill battle.



Farmer Eric A. Janolino from the Municipality of Opol in Misamis Oriental ventured into tilapia farming and expanded his income with the financial assistance extended by LANDBANK and the Department of Agriculture under the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF) Lending Program.

To fund each planting season, Eric used to rely on informal lenders who charged exorbitant and crippling interest rates, often leaving him with little to no profit after the harvest. This made it nearly impossible to improve his farming methods or invest in the necessary resources to grow his livelihood.

Adding to his struggles, Eric lived in an isolated community with limited access to government services. The barangay is accessible only by motorcycle, requiring a 30-minute ride along rugged, unpaved roads and crossing several rivers from the town proper. This makes transporting crops to the market both difficult and costly, eating further into his already limited earnings.

In search of better income, Eric tried his luck in Manila, taking on jobs as an electrician and security guard. But he felt out of place in the bustling city, and his heart pulled him back to the fields he had always called home. Returning to farming, however, presented the same persistent struggles—high-interest loans and limited resources left him with little to provide for his wife and three children.

## **A new beginning**

Hope came in 2023 when Eric learned about the financial assistance available for small farmers like him, facilitated by LANDBANK in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA). Under the

Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF) Lending Program, he secured a ₱100,000 loan with a low annual interest rate of 2%, or only about ₱2,000 for the entire year.

Eric was guided by LANDBANK and DA through every step of securing the loan—something he never thought possible due to his limited reading and writing skills.

*“Dati, kanya-kanyang diskarte ang mga tao dito para magkaroon ng puhunan sa pagsasaka. Pero noong dumating ang LANDBANK, ipinaliwanag nila kung paano kami makakapag-avail ng murang pautang sa ilalim ng ACEF program. Hindi na kami nahirapan sa pagbabayad ng malalaking interes sa 5-6,”* Eric shared.

With LANDBANK’s financial support, Eric ventured into tilapia farming and invested in building three fishponds, under the guidance of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region 10. To ensure success, he completed a BFAR training on tilapia production, equipping him with the knowledge and skills to maximize his new venture.



Eric used the loan from LANDBANK to construct three fishponds and purchase fingerlings to start tilapia farming, which provided him with a stable source of income to support his family.

### **A ripple effect of growth**

The impact of tilapia farming on Eric’s life was profound. His once meager earnings for his family grew into a steady and reliable income. He invested his profits to buy a carabao and a horse to help transport goods to market, raised pigs for extra income, and even renovated their home. Most significantly, Eric was able to send his children to school—something he once thought was out of reach.

*“Malaki ang pasasalamat ko sa LANDBANK dahil hindi sila nag-atubiling tumulong sa katulad naming mga mahihirap. Ngayon, meron na kaming mga hayop na pangkargada sa aming mga produkto at pang-araro ng bukid, kaya malaki talaga ang naitulong ng LANDBANK sa aking pamilya. Anuman ang iyong kalagayan at pangangailangan, nandiyan sila para magbigay ng tulong at suporta,”* Eric said.

Motivated by the opportunities provided by LANDBANK and DA, Eric inspired his fellow farmers to achieve the same success. Fourteen other farmers from his barangay availed themselves of the affordable

credit facilities under the ACEF Lending Program and embraced tilapia farming. Like Eric, they soon began to see their livelihoods—and their incomes—flourish, enabling their families to better meet their needs and secure a brighter future.

### **Empowering small farmers and fishers nationwide**

LANDBANK serves as the conduit bank of DA in implementing the ACEF Lending Program, which aims to boost the productivity of marginalized agricultural players through the extension of accessible credit assistance, among other support initiatives.

Under the Program, farmers and fishers can borrow up to P1 million, while cooperatives, associations, and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSEs) may access loans up to P5 million for the purchase of farm inputs and equipment, as well as the acquisition or establishment of agri-based production and processing machinery, equipment, and facilities.

As of December 2024, LANDBANK has released a total of ₱14 billion in loans under the ACEF Lending Program benefitting 95,301 borrowers nationwide, 98% of which are small farmers and fishers.

<https://globalnation.inquirer.net/269313/remote-sitio-farmer-turned-fishpond-owner-empowered-by-landbank-da>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Benguet town celebrates sweet bounty of strawberries

By: [Vincent Cabreza](#) - Reporter / [@Inquirer\\_Baguio](#)  
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:04 AM March 22, 2025



**RIPE FOR THE PICKING** In this photo taken in February, the strawberries at a farm in La Trinidad, Benguet, are ready for picking. —NEIL CLARK ONGCHANGCO

**BAGUIO CITY**—Benguet’s capital town of La Trinidad is basking in the sweet success of this year’s Strawberry Festival, a vibrant celebration of the region’s prized berry, with the festivities reaching their peak with a grand street dancing and float parade this Saturday.

It will be followed by the unveiling of a massive strawberry cake on Sunday to be crafted from 280 kilograms of fresh strawberries and shaped into a “kayabang,” the traditional Ibaloy vegetable basket, organizers said.

The annual festival was first held in 1981 to honor La Trinidad Valley’s 36.4 hectares of strawberry farms, which have been producing 18 to 22 tons of berries per hectare each year, according to Benguet State University (BSU).

BSU rents out the strawberry farms at the center of the valley, which has become a tourism destination for travelers who prefer to pick their own Sweet Charlies—the variety of berries most preferred by the valley’s producers.

Strawberries are farmed in the coolest sections of Benguet, Mountain Province, and, more recently, the town of Kayapa in Nueva Vizcaya, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA). The agency’s production matrix shows a rise in strawberry harvests from 1,188 metric tons in 2023 to 1,449 metric tons last year.



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The strawberry trade is still relatively young compared to Benguet's multimillion-peso vegetable industry, which grew due to high demand from Metro Manila for salad vegetables, said Juliet Ohasan, a farm scientist and researcher at the Bureau of Plant Industry who is studying alternative ways of propagating this popular fruit.

Strawberries are not endemic to the Philippines, and researchers have yet to agree on when they were introduced and cultivated in Benguet, she said.

There are accounts that strawberries became a lucrative crop in the late 1970s, said Aida Pagtan, DA Cordillera information officer, whose 80-year-old mother Eduarda started growing berries in the 1980s and still tends to the family garden.

This was a period when Baguio's tourism souvenir trade was at its peak. Several case studies list strawberries and jams among the items visitors frequently take home.

"There's this often-repeated quote that you have not been to Baguio if you don't bring home strawberries," Ohasan said.

Benguet's production is still not sufficient to meet demand. However, today's strawberry farmers have been content with supplying tourists and residents who shop at the Baguio market, as revenues remain substantial, Ohasan said. I

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2045785/benguet-town-celebrates-sweet-bounty-of-strawberries>

**REMATE:**

## **25% pagtalima sa pork MSRP sa NCR wet markets nakikita ng DA**

March 22, 2025 14:10



MANILA, Philippines- Inihayag ng Department of Agriculture (DA) na ang compliance rate sa maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) para sa baboy sa wet markets sa National Capital Region (NCR) ay tumaas dalawang linggo matapos na ipataw ang price control measure.

“Nag-start tayo noong March 10, nasa 6% ang level of compliance... Sa huling datos, nasa 25%,” ang sinabi ni DA spokesperson Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa.

Ang MSRP sa baboy, itinakda sa P380 per kilo para sa liempo at P250 per kilo para sa kasim at pigue, naging epektibo noong March 10.

Gayunman, ang mga baboy na mabibili sa supermarkets at hypermarkets ay exempted mula sa MSRP dahil sa mas mataas na operating costs.

Ang MSRP ay ipinataw bilang tugon sa mga hamon na kinahaharap ng pork industry partikular na ang epekto ng African Swine Fever (ASF).

“Yung prevailing prices ay unti-unti naman nang bumababa. Ang kasim, ang prevailing price ay nasa P360, pero may nakikita pa rin tayong P420 sa ilang pamilihan... Sa liempo, dapat P380 ang napagkasunduan... Ang prevailing ay P410 pero may nakita tayong P470,” ang sinabi pa rin ni de Mesa. “Magkakaroon ng investigation para makita kung sino ang umaabuso sa presyuhan... gagamitin ng DA ang mga pwedeng gawin na itinakda ng batas,” dagdag niya.

Pinag-iisipan naman ng DA na ipatupad ang “Pork-For-All” program sa Kadiwa outlets at sa ilang pamilihan kung saan direktang mabibili ang baboy mula sa importers at traders na magbenta ng mas mababang presyo, tulad ng ipinatutupad na “Rice-For-All” program.

Ang ASF outbreak ang naging dahilan ng pagkamatay ng milyong baboy at naging banta sa kabuhayan ng mga magsasaka.

Matatandaang August 2024, sinimulan ng DA -Bureau of Animal Industry ang paglilitis para sa ASF vaccine para labanan ang paglaganap ng animal disease. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/25-pagtalima-sa-pork-msrp-sa-ncr-wet-markets-nakikita-ng-da/>

**REMATE:**

# Kadiwa ng Pangulo itatayo sa ilang NHA housing projects

March 22, 2025 11:20



MANILA, Philippines- Malapit nang itayo ang Kadiwa ng Pangulo (KNP) stores sa ilang housing projects ng National Housing Authority bilang bahagi na gawing mas accessible ang mga murang pagkain.

Sinabi ni Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. na ang KNP program ay hindi lamang isang inisyatiba kundi isang konkretong aksyon bilang tugon sa kasalukuyang ‘agricultural at economic challenges.’

“I am pleased to witness another milestone in the Kadiwa ng Pangulo program, expanding its reach to more Filipinos and reinforcing our commitment to food security, affordability, and accessibility,” ang sinabi ni Tiu Laurel.

Sa ulat, lumagda ang NHA at DA sa isang Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) para matiyak ang tuloy-tuloy na suplay ng mga produktong agrikultural sa piling resettlement sites ng NHA.

Pinangunahan mismo nina NHA Gen. Manager Joeben Tai at Agri Sec. Francisco Tiu-Laurel Jr. ang isinagawang paglagda ng kasunduan na layong palakasin ang seguridad sa pagkain at isulong ang sustainability habang tinutugunan ang mga hamon sa sektor ng agrikultura.

“This memorandum of understanding between the Department of Agriculture and the NHA represents a crucial step in integrating food security into housing communities,” ang sinabi ni Tiu Laurel.

“Providing homes is essential, but true community development goes beyond shelter. It must also include sustainable food systems, livelihood opportunities, and economic stability,” dagdag na wika ni Tiu Laurel.

Binigyang-diin naman ni GM Tai na ang KADIWA ay naging mahalagang bahagi ng bawat NHA People’s Caravan upang matiyak na direktang nakikinabang ang mga komunidad sa mga inisyatiba ng programa.

“This is our way of helping residents in NHA housing projects improve their daily lives. The MOU also aims to enhance the livelihoods of our farmers,” ang sinabi ni Tai.

Sa ilalim ng MOU, tutulungan ng DA ang NHA na tukuyin ang mga lugar para sa KNP site establishment at bigyan ang housing body ng technical at logistic support. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/kadiwa-ng-pangulo-itatayo-sa-ilang-nha-housing-projects/>

**REMATE:**

# **NIA, LMP magsasanib-pwersa para sa BBM rice sale expansion sa Abril**

March 22, 2025 10:52



MANILA, Philippines- Nakatakdang magsanib-pwersa ang National Irrigation Administration (NIA) at League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) para sa pagpapalawak ng Bagong Bayaning Magsasaka (BBM) rice sale sa bansa.

Layon ng pagsasama ay gawing accessible ang BBM rice sa mas maraming Filipino alinsunod sa food security at affordability targets ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

Ang BBM rice, nagmula sa lokal na pag-aani ng mga magsasaka sa ilalim ng contract farming ng NIA, ay ibinebenta sa halagang P29 per kilogram sa vulnerable sector kabilng na sa mga senior citizens, persons with disabilities, solo parents, at Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries.

Sa ulat, sinabi ni NIA Administrator Eduardo Guillen na target ng NIA na makakuha ng memorandum of agreement (MOA) kasama ang LMP sa second quarter.

“End of April po ang target namin. Ayusin po namin [ang] mechanics,” ayon kay Guillen.

Base sa inisyal na MOA draft na ibinahagi sa PNA, kapwa inaasahan ng magkabilang partido na tiyakin ang “sustainable mechanism” para sa food security sa pamamagitan ng pagbili, paggiling at distribusyon ng bigas.

Ang NIA ang ‘in charge’ sa pagbili ng fresh palay mula sa accredited irrigators’ associations (IAs); paggiling ng bigas; at tiyakin na matatag ang suplay para sa municipal local government units (MLGUs).

Para naman sa LMP, tutulungan nito ang MLGUs na maghanda at magpartisipa sa pagbili at pagbebenta ng BBM rice, at maging ang makipag-ugnayan sa kanilang accredited cooperatives para sa mas malawak na retail sales at abnot-kayang price levels, bukod sa iba pa.

“Kung tutulong po ang LMP, isipin po natin sana lahat ng palengke sa ating bansa pwede mong i-access iyan [BBM rice],” ang sinabi ni Guillen.

Sa ngayon, may 25 million kilograms (25,000 metric tons) ng palay na naani sa ilalim ng contract farming ang nagiling na.

Tinatayang, may 4 million consumers mula 217 munisipalidad sa bansa ang nakinabang mula sa BBM rice sale, ayon sa NIA. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/nia-lmp-magsasanib-pwersa-para-sa-bbm-rice-sale-expansion-sa-abril/>

**ABANTE:**

# PBBM pinabuhusan ng murang bigas sa mga Kadiwa store

Abante News

• March 21, 2025



Ipinag-utos ni Pangulong Ferdinand `Bongbong' Marcos Jr. na dagdagan ang ibinebentang bigas sa mga Kadiwa store.

Sa kanyang direktiba, inatasan si Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. na damihan ang supply ng murang bigas sa mga Kadiwa ng Pangulo.

Binisita ng Pangulo nitong Biyernes ng hapon, Marso 21, ang Dasmariñas, Cavite kaugnay sa inilunsad na Trabaho at Serbisyong Pangkalusugan sa Bagong Pilipinas at nakita nito na mabilis maubos ang bigas ng Kadiwa.

Nais ng Pangulo na mas maraming mamamayan ang makabili ng murang bigas mula sa gobyerno kaya binilinan nito si Laurel na dagdagan ang supply sa mga Kadiwa store.

“Nag-usap kami ng Department of Agriculture na dagdagan dahil napakabilis maubos ang stock namin. Kaya sabi ko marami pang gustong bumili, dagdagan natin,” wika ng Pangulo.

Samantala, kabilang sa mga serbisyong ibinigay ng pamahalaan sa Dasmariñas ay pangkalusugan na mula sa Department of Health, job fair na inorganisa ng Department of Labor and Employment at mga benepisyong ibinibigay ng Department of Social Welfare and Development.



Sinabi ni Pangulong Marcos na pinagsama-sama nila ang serbisyo ng mga nabanggit na ahensiya upang maibigay ang pangangailangan at matugunan ang mga problemang kinakaharap ng mamamayan ng Cavite. (Aileen Taliping)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2025/03/21/pbbm-pinabuhusan-ng-murang-bigas-sa-mga-kadiwa-store/>