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The Filipino farmer known as “Bayani ng Hapag-kainan” is empowered to the know-how of digitization and modernization as envisioned and foreseen by the Bagong Pilipinas Administration of Honorable President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Jr. (PBBM), put into action through the convergence and joint effort of both the public and the private institutions.

Our COVER is a representation of **Ang Magsasaka sa Bagong Pilipinas** - *determinado, masayahin, at bukas-isip sa pagkatuto sa mga bagong teknolohiya. Sila ang kaakibat ng NFA sa patuloy na pagtupad ng mandatong bumili ng palay mula sa mga lokal na magsasaka at mamamahagi ng bigas sa mga naapektuhan ng kalamidad, sa pamamagitan ng piling sangay ng pamahalaan. Sila ang sandigan ng ating bayan sa pagkamit ng Sapat na Bigas para sa Panatag na Bukas.*

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Road to Endless Possibilities

#sulongNFA

After four years of transition as a result of the implementation of Republic Act No. 11203, or an Act Liberalizing the Importation, Exportation, and Trading of Rice, Lifting for the Purpose the Quantitative Import Restriction on Rice, and for other Purposes, also known as the Rice Tariffication Law, the National Food Authority is now on the road to transformation and journeying to the **Moving Forward Phase** to achieve **(1) manpower placement and development, (2) financial viability as a corporate entity, (3) post-harvest facilities modernization, and (4) corporate social responsibility.**

Prior to reaching the journey to transformation, we have experienced the changes and challenges towards NFA's new era. We are one in creating a testament and historical memento of hard work to attain heights and create greater impact.

#sulongNFA is more than just a hashtag. It embodies the joint aspiration of the NFA family, not just to relive the golden era of the agency but to create an advent of a resilient corporate entity, living up to the expectations of the present and the future times. Our common goal is to procure more palay from our local farmers to provide during times of need, in the midst of the changing of the NFA's management leaders, bearing in heart that every single beat is necessary to ensure and secure the life of each member of the Filipino family.

In our journey to endless possibilities:

There are clouds; there are thunders and lightnings.

*But then there is patience, perseverance, professionalism,
and integrity among employees.*

And there is the NFA Family - one body with different parts, connected to the head, moving forward to attain endless possibilities for 2025 and beyond.



The Administrator's Wall

LARRY R. LACSON, Ph.D.



Together, we have navigated the complexities and challenges of 2024 with resilience and determination, proving once again that the unity and hard work of the National Food Authority's employees are the bedrock of our success.

Despite facing various internal and external hurdles, we have not only maintained but strengthened our commitment to the realization and accomplishment of our programs, projects, and activities.

This year, we demonstrated what can be achieved when every individual contributes their skills, passion, and dedication to a shared vision. Whether in the fields, warehouses, or offices, each of you played an indispensable role in ensuring food security for our nation. For this, I extend my heartfelt thanks to every member of the NFA family nationwide. Maraming salamat sa suporta at pagkakaisa.



“For 2025, there are greater accomplishments in store for our agency. Isang karangalan ang makapaglingkod sa mga mamamayang Filipino sa pamamagitan ng ating ahensya.

- Dr. Lacson

WE Dream, WE Commit, WE ACT

(A message for the NFA community delivered during the NFA's 2024 Year-End Assessment held at the agency's home office in Brgy. Vasra, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City on December 19, 2024.)



As we turn the page to a new year, we do so with renewed vigor and a collective aspiration: to make 2025 a transformative year for the National Food Authority. Our vision is clear—to build a better, stronger, and more capable NFA that rises to the demands of a changing world.

Together, we aim to realize the dream of putting the National Food Authority not only at the forefront of our nation's agricultural and food sectors, but also on the local and global consciousness. This is not just a dream; it is a commitment—a shared responsibility that will guide our actions and decisions in the years to come.

As we close 2024 and welcome 2025, let us carry forward the lessons we have learned, the partnerships we have built, and the successes we have achieved. Let us also embrace the opportunities ahead with courage and creativity, knowing that our collective efforts will shape a brighter future for the NFA and the communities we serve.

Muli maraming salamat sa inyong dedikasyon sa ating mandato. Ito ang naging susi upang patuloy natin ma accomplish ang vision at mission ng ating mahal na ahensya. Together, let us continue to build the National Food Authority that we and our nation can be proud of.

Mabuhay ang NFA!

CENTRAL OFFICE

JOURNEY TO MODERNIZATION

The NFA post harvest facilities (PHF) modernization under the **Masagana Agri-Food Infrastructure Modernization (MAFIM)** Program is now in full swing as the NFA successfully procured services and executed contracts in 2024.

NFA Administrator **Larry R. Lacson**, in a statement, said *“Ito na ang umpisa ng matagal na nating hinihintay na pagbabago upang higit pang mapag-ibayo ang pagbibigay ng serbisyo sa ating bansa. At sa pagbabagong ito ay kaakibat natin ang ating mga kawani sa NFA at ang mga magsasakang Pilipino.”*

According to **Dr. Mario G. Andrada**, Officer-in-Charge - Deputy Administrator and Chairperson of the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee for the Establishment, Repair, and Rehabilitation of NFA Warehouses, the NFA now has thirty-six (36) warehouses planned for construction. It has also identified one hundred thirty-four (134) warehouse sites nationwide for repair and maintenance (RMT).



Members of the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee met for the pre-procurement of infrastructure projects under the MAFIM.

As a way forward, the NFA management has already polished the terms of reference for drying and rice mill facilities. Likewise, plans and programs for more post-harvest facility installations, such as silos, are set.

“For 2025, the operations team has proposed the conduct of purity testing and contract drying/testing and commissioning in identified field areas as we need to ensure that the quality of our goods passed the required standards. The agency will be capacitating its Engineers, Quality Assurance Officers, Pest Control Officers, and

Calibrators to upgrade, update, and facilitate the transfer of knowledge. This is to ensure that know-how on grains warehousing operations and facilities are linked and sustained,” Dr. Andrada said.

The NFA has recently conducted **Ugnayan** activities with the leaders of farmer organizations and individual farmers in high supply procuring areas to gather their observations and recommendations to further improve the agency's strategic operations. This is particular on the use of farmer sacks in place of the usual utilization of NFA empty sacks (MTS) for the agency to save on operational costs.

NFA MANPOWER PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Year 2024 is a big leap for the agency as its personnel complement under its restructured plantilla per Republic Act No. 11203, or the Rice Tarrification Law, undergoes empowerment.

Records from the Administrative and General Services Department's Human Resource Management Division states that for this year, the NFA has promoted two hundred ninety-eight (298) employees, hired eighty three (83), reappointed forty seven (47), three (3) were employed, and transferred eight (8) while fourteen (14) has changed its item number.

To fast track the proceedings of the manpower pomotions natiowide, the NFA has conducted a series of briefings with the agency's field



executives and administrative officers to lay down the plans and steps on manpower promotion based on the revised Merit Selection Plan (MSP) approved by the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

In the conduct of promotions, the NFA Human Resource bases its actions with the MSP and the Omnibus Rules on Appointments and Other Human Resource Actions (ORAOHRA) and other pertinent related laws.

NFA TO TRIM POWER COST FROM NEW SOLAR PROJECT WITH PNOC



The National Food Authority signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with state-owned Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) to implement a rooftop solar photovoltaic system at its office in Quezon City. This initiative aims to reduce electricity costs and improve overall energy management for the agency responsible for ensuring the country's rice supply.

“NFA is going green. We will not only save on our power cost from this solar rooftop project, we are also contributing to the reduction of carbon emission and in safeguarding the environment,” NFA Administrator Larry Lacson said. He added that the solar project that agency's head office will be eventually replicated in other NFA offices and warehouses across the country.”

Under the agreement, NFA will lease a 100 kilowatt-peak solar PV system, which is projected to substantially lower its electricity expenses. The monthly billing will be calculated based on the net energy output of the solar system, set at a rate 10 percent lower than prevailing utility prices. This cost-saving measure is expected to provide NFA with significant financial relief, allowing it to allocate more resources toward its core mandate of maintaining sufficient rice buffer stocks. For the entire NFA network, the total solar capacity will be 5 MW.

The project aligns with PNOC's commitment to promoting renewable energy and self-sufficient energy in government operations. By leveraging solar power, NFA not only reduces its carbon footprint but also contributes to the national goal of increasing renewable energy utilization. The collaboration represents a strategic investment in sustainability, which is crucial in the face of rising energy costs poised to enhance its energy efficiency, reduce operational costs, and solidify its commitment to environmental responsibility, all while ensuring that the country's rice supply remains secure and accessible to the Filipino people.

The implementation of the solar PV system comes at a time when government agencies are under increasing pressure to adopt more efficient practices. NFA's participation in this project sets a precedent for other government entities, demonstrating the viability and benefits of transitioning to renewable energy sources.

As NFA moves toward more sustainable operations, it strengthens its role as a leader in energy efficiency within the public sector.

In addition to cost savings, the project is expected to enhance the reliability of NFA's energy supply. By generating its own electricity, the agency can mitigate the risks associated with fluctuating energy prices and supply disruptions. This reliability is particularly important for NFA, as its operations directly impact the country's food security.

The MOA stipulates that ownership of the solar PV system will transfer to NFA after fifteen years at no additional cost, further enhancing the long-term benefits of this investment. This lease-to-own arrangement not only reduces upfront costs but also provides NFA with a sustainable energy solution for years to come.

The NFA will also benefit from the expertise and resources of PNOC throughout the installation and operational phases of the project. PNOC is responsible for ensuring that the solar PV system complies with safety standards and relevant regulations, allowing NFA to focus on its core activities without diverting significant resources toward energy management.

Overall, the partnership between NFA and PNOC marks a crucial step in modernizing the agency's operations and promoting sustainability. With this solar project, NFA is poised to enhance its energy efficiency, reduce operational costs, and solidify its commitment to environmental responsibility, all while ensuring that the country's rice supply remains secure and accessible to the Filipino people.

REGION I

2024 WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION

In support of the 2024 Women's Month Celebration with the theme "WE for Gender Equality and Inclusive Society", the branch office conducted a kick-off activity for its Gender and Development Activity on March 15, 2024, through a Sportsfest. This is to increase awareness of gender-related programs through the provision of a year-long health and wellness activity for the employees.



NFA Supports Government Programs on Croppings



Branch Manager Rodolfo W. Corpuz attended the System Management Committee Conference spearheaded by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Pangasinan on June 4, 2024.

The meeting is significant in dissemination of the proposed Cropping Calendar Pattern of Planting (CCPP) for the 2024 Wet Crop Season to secure effective and efficient management and provide irrigation service to the farmer beneficiaries of the agency. BM Corpuz also took the opportunity to discuss the agency's flagship programs specifically on palay procurement operations.

KADIWA NG KAPITOLYO

The National Food Authority-Eastern Pangasinan Branch Office participated in the Kadiwa Ng Kapitolyo (in support of the Kadiwa ng Pangulo Program) held at the Capitol Compound, Lingayen, Pangasinan on April 12, 2024.

Various Kadiwa partners also gave their support and featured their products during the event for the stakeholders to be able to avail of lower priced commodities.



The Province of La Union anticipates an increase in rice production as the National Food Authority and the Provincial Government of La Union formalized their partnership through a signed Deed of Usufruct on August 7, 2024, for the construction of a P200-million rice processing center.

The facility, which is part of the National Food Authority's plan to boost the national food security, will be built in Barangay Damortis, Santo Tomas, La Union and will feature state-of-the-art technology such as a modern rice mill, mechanical dryer, a 100,000-bag capacity warehouse, generator sets, three-phase power supply, electronic truck scale, and a staff house.

NFA Administrator Larry R. Lacson lauded the NFA La Union for its sufficiency with 152,000 metric tons of rice produced in a year. With La Union's current production rate of 4.5 metric tons (MT) per hectare, it surpasses the national production average of four (4) metric tons per hectare

LA UNION - NFA PARTNERSHIP FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RPC



Further, he also said that the establishment of a government-owned rice processing center or RPC will ensure efficient and sustainable processing of high-quality rice and boost the growth of the local rice industry.

La Union Governor Raphaelle Veronica-David, known for recognizing the farmers' livelihood as the *"lifeblood of our society"*, thanked the NFA for recognizing the province's thrust on local agricultural productivity and vowed that her administration will continue to ensure maximum support to farmers and agri-entrepreneurs. She said that this project will be a significant factor to the agricultural landscape of La Union as it strives towards its goal of achieving rice self-sufficiency status and vision of becoming the Heart of Agri-Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025.

/ MARICRIS A. MERCADO

PRIME ATTENTION TO WOMEN'S HEALTH (Full support to empowering women in the workplace)



In line with the celebration of Women's Month on March 25, 2024, the officials and employees of NFA Regional Office I and its La Union Branch Office employees participated in the launching of *BARKADA MO'T KABARANGAY MO* held at Dalumpinas Oeste, San Fernando City, La Union. The event is among the strategies of the government that utilizes a health oriented approach to treatment and rehabilitation centers initiated by the Department of Health (DoH) Treatment and Rehabilitation Center-La Union.

The NFA in Region 1 recognizes the importance of giving attention to the health of women employees through various and programs aimed at empowering the women sector.

Attendees to the activity signed the Manifesto of Support for a Drug Free Community and participated in the free medical consultation.

The NFA Region I on July 22-26, 2024 had the opportunity to introduce the agency's mandate and service operations to the public as the regional and branch management were invited as resource speakers for the radio program Usapang Agrikultura which simultaneously aired in all stations of Radyo Pilipinas Region 1 every 5:00 - 6:00AM.

Acting RM Me-ann C. Villaflor and Regional Economist Eunice T. Abalos served as resource speakers on the first day (July 22, 2024) while RSQAO Ferdinand S. Macusi concluded the guesting of NFA on the last day (July 26, 2024) with Acting Information Officer III Maricris A. Mercado as co-anchor.

Abalos presented the palay and rice inventory and overview of the current NFA's palay support price under the Price Range Scheme (PRICERS).

NFA SA USAPANG AGRIKULTURA



During the airing of the program, Acting RM Villaflor informed the public on the Palay Marketing Assistance for Legislators and Local Government Units (PALLGUs) of the NFA and its LGU counterpart.

On the final day of guesting, RSQAO Macusi briefly discussed the NFA's Quality Assurance policies and procedures and good warehousing practices.

Acting Branch Managers Frederick B. Dulay, Jonathan U. Corpuz Rhoderick A. Fernandez, Acting Engineer III Silver Paul Madalipay and Statistician Jimmuel Barrocan also joined as resource speakers with IO Designates Kevin Hilarion and Kristien Cabading as co-anchors.

NFA-DOST Partnership for Stronger Understanding and Communicating of GeoHazards

The DOST-PHILVOCS conducted the *"PHIVOLCS InfoPress: Understanding and Communicating Geologic Hazards in Region 1"* at San Fernando City, La Union. NFA Region I, represented by Acting Information Officer III Maricris A. Mercado, joined the seminar-workshop for media practitioners, government information officers, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) frontliners of La Union and Pangasinan in collaboration with the Regional Offices of DOST, the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), and the Office of Civil Defense (OCD).



The activity which was held on September 18, 2024, is an initiative to deter the gap in science and risk communication by empowering participants to effectively translate information into clear and actionable messages that can help safeguard communities. By working together, a stronger network of informed and prepared individuals committed to disaster resilience is built.

Photo below shows the delegates to the activity.



UGNAYAN WITH ILOCOS NORTE FARMERS



In photo: Souvenir shots on the series of Ugnayan activities conducted by NFA Ilocos Norte with the local farmers in the area.

The Ugnayan team thanked our local farmers for supporting the programs and projects of the NFA to make the NFA rice available to those affected by emergencies and calamities all over the country.



On December 16, 2024, the NFA, represented by Designated BIO Karen Isabel M. Bucaoto, attended the 2024 4th Quarter Cordillera Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (DRRMC) Response and Early Recovery Pillar Meeting, held at the Ritz Hotel, Legarda Road, Baguio City.

The meeting agenda focused on the recapitulation of the year's agreements between the DRRMC & its Line Agencies. Topics discussed including proper coordination, effective communication, and timely, accurate response and updates during times of calamities or disasters.

A brief preview for the programs and activities for the CY 2025 were also presented.

NFA PARTICIPATES IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CONVERGENCE



In photo: Delegates to the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (DRRMC) in Cordillera during the meeting held in Baguio City.

The NFA is among the cooperators to the quick response via issuance of rice to the identified beneficiaries through the various relief giving agencies.

REGION 2

PALAY PROCUREMENT IN ISABELA

The NFA Isabela Branch Office, led by Acting Branch Manager Atty. Angelique D. Balisang, has achieved significant milestones in palay procurement for the first semester of 2024. With the procurement of 410,115 bags of palay, the branch has accomplished 95.38 percent of its target of 430,000 bags. The total procurement for the year 2024 stands at an impressive 456,672 bags or equivalent to 81.99 percent of the annual target. These accomplishments reflect the commitment and dedication of the NFA Isabela Branch in fulfilling its procurement objectives.

The Price Range Scheme, or PRICERS, is an innovative scheme that has empowered the agency to adopt flexible pricing mechanisms, enabling the NFA to procure more palay and accumulate buffer stock in its warehouses. The key factors contributing to the success of the implementation of the new Price Range Scheme (PRICERS) are attributed to the hard work of its employees.



In photos: Procurement activities at Gamu Duplex Warehouse (above) and palay drying operations at Santiago Cimbria Dryer (below).

The introduction of PRICERS has proven to be a game-changer, allowing the NFA to adapt to market dynamics and effectively fulfill its procurement goals.

The diligence and commitment of NFA employees, under the guidance of Branch Manager Balisang, have been pivotal in the effective implementation of PRICERS.



CAGAYAN PROCUREMENT ACCOMPLISHMENT



The NFA Cagayan has achieved an impressive milestone by surpassing its palay procurement target for the period from January to September 2024. The branch recorded a procurement rate of 105.91%, securing a total of 744,576 bags of palay, exceeding its target of 703,000 bags.

This outstanding performance not only highlights the branch's commitment to ensuring food security but also plays a crucial role in contributing to the region's buffer stock requirements.

A significant portion of this procurement, totaling 723,422.86 bags, was achieved through the PRICERS Program, which aims to support local farmers and improve procurement efficiency.

The NFA Cagayan Branch's success reflects its dedication to fulfilling its mission and providing reliable food supply management in the region.

With these achievements, the Cagayan Branch is well positioned to continue supporting the agricultural sector and ensuring food availability for the locality.



PALAY MARKETING PROGRAM WITH THE LGU OF APAYAO

On April 8, 2024, a significant milestone was marked at the Municipal Hall of Flora in Apayao, where the National Food Authority in Region 2 signed a Memorandum of Agreement for the PALLGU initiative, allocating ₱1,000,000.00 to enhance agricultural support in the area. The event was led by Acting Regional Manager II Liza R. Balagot, Acting Branch Manager Maria Luisa L. Luluquisen, and Supervising Grains Officer Evelyn A. Aniciete, in collaboration with the Local Government Unit of Flora, represented by Municipal Mayor Hon. Rodolfo B. Juan.

During the ceremony, Acting Regional Manager Balagot and Hon. Mayor Juan expressed their gratitude, emphasizing the exemplary teamwork that made the achievement possible. Both leaders underscored the importance of the MOA, which highlights their shared commitment to prioritizing the welfare and interests of local farmers.

In a related development, Hon. Jorico F. Bayaua, the Mayor of LGU Conner, signed another Memorandum of Agreement for the PALLGU project, amounting to ₱3,910,965.94. The LGU Conner continues to provide strong support for the PALLGU and the Branch is deeply appreciative of this collaboration.

This partnership represents a significant step toward bolstering agricultural support and resources for the community, showcasing a mutual dedication to serving the nation with competence and integrity. As the NFA looks to the future, there is optimism that these collaborations will pave the way for greater agricultural development and improved livelihoods for farmers across the region.



Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on PALLGU between the National Food Authority and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Flora, Apayao with Mayor Rodolfo Juan (seated).

IMPERATIVE STRATEGIC PLAN TOWARDS MODERNIZATION

On July 17, 2024, the Japanese representatives from Satake Corporation-Japan and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) visited NFA Region 2. They were warmly welcomed by OIC-Deputy Administrator Mario G. Andrada, Ph.D., Acting RM Liza R. Balagot, Acting BM Atty. Angelique D. Balisang, and Engineers Julius B. Sugue and Dennis Santelices.

The Japanese visited the Province of Isabela purposely to conduct ocular and site inspection for the possible Japan Grant Socio and Economic Development Program for state-of-the-art grains processing centers. As initial stages in the imperative strategic plan towards NFA's modernization, this window of opportunity will greatly help in the realization of NFA's pivotal role towards modernization.

During the visit, they toured at the Satake Ricemills, NPGC Satake Ricemill at Echague, Isabela and Santiago Satake Ricemill at Santiago City, Isabela. The fact that these facilities were built more than four (4) decades and still in good condition astounded the Japanese.



Similarly, the visit also paved way for a courtesy call with the Local Chief Executives of the province of Isabela. New ideas on post harvest in line with the Masagana Agri-Food Infrastructure Modernization (MAFIM) Program were discussed. NFA OIC-Deputy Administrator Andrada conducted benchmarking and ocular inspection of the province's state-of-the-art grains processing complex.

OATH-TAKING OF NEWLY HIRED AND PROMOTED EMPLOYEES



The ceremony was also graced by Acting Branch Manager Angelique D. Balisang, SAO Susan Y. Salcedo, and AO V Emily B. Regindin.

The activity shows the commitment to fulfill NFA's mandate of ensuring food security. The addition of new employees increased operational capacity and highlights our dedication to providing outstanding service to our stakeholders. It raised confidence that the addition of these new employees will further enhance the region's capacity to fulfil the agency's mandate, and deliver exceptional service to the public.



This efficient onboarding and promotion process was made possible through the efforts of Acting Administrator Larry R. Lacson, who fast-tracked the process, strengthened the workforce, and enhanced the overall operational efficiency of the Branch.

With these seventeen (17) newly promoted employees, NFA Region 02 is well-positioned to achieve greater success and productivity in its mission. The management and employees are optimistic that these changes will contribute positively to their ongoing efforts in ensuring food security and efficient service delivery in the region and is poised to achieve new heights of success and productivity. Notably, all appointments were attested by the Civil Service Commission (CSC), ensuring compliance with official standards and enhancing the credibility of the process.

The oath-taking of newly hired and promoted NFA Region 2 employees has expanded its workforce with the addition of thirty-eight (38) new employees. The new employees took their oath of office before Acting Regional Manager Liza R. Balagot and Acting Assistant Regional Manager Julius B. Sugue.

FUN SHOOT EVENT



RM Liza R. Balagot (center) with the participants of the Fun Shoot Event at D'Armory Shooting Range.

The NFA Regional Office 2 and Isabela came together for a thrilling Fun Shoot Event on September 30, 2024, at D'Armory Shooting Range in Barangay Baluarte, Santiago City as part of NFA's 52nd Anniversary Celebration, themed "Sapat na Bigas, Panatag ang Bukas."

The event promoted camaraderie among NFA Region 2 employees who share a passion for shooting as sports. It provided an excellent opportunity for participants to showcase their shooting skills through a friendly competition, fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared enthusiasm for the sport.

MEDIA COVERAGE ON NFA'S OVERALL OPERATIONS IN BULACAN



The NFA in Bulacan hosted a significant media coverage event at the San Ildefonso Warehouse, highlighting its crucial role in supporting local farmers and ensuring food security in the region.

The event was attended by key figures, including NFA Administrator Larry R. Lacson, OIC-Regional Manager Roy Q. Untiveros, and OIC-Branch Manager Rhona P. Talens. Esteemed executives from the Department of Agriculture and the Central Bank, along with 45 prominent media personalities from print, radio, and TV, also graced the occasion. These diverse groups came together to witness the palay procurement operations firsthand, emphasizing NFA's unwavering commitment to agricultural sustainability.

In an exclusive interview, Administrator Lacson shared a major milestone achieved by NFA Bulacan – the successful procurement of 99% of its targeted 3.30 million bags of palay from January to June 2024. This accomplishment is particularly noteworthy considering the challenges posed by reduced tariff rates on imported rice. Administrator Lacson reaffirmed NFA's dedication to ensuring that local farmers receive competitive prices for their produce.

Dr. Lacson's leadership was commended for various innovative initiatives, including the establishment of a dedicated lane for senior citizens in palay selling, the employment of small trucks to streamline rural procurement processes, and the

expansion of post-harvest facilities to enhance operational efficiency and other modern technologies employed to support the organization's procurement and storage activities.

The members of the media were toured at the Sta. Rita Warehouse. They were provided with firsthand insights into NFA's operations.

The event also received recognition from San Ildefonso Mayor Honorable Fernando Galvez, Jr., highlighting the collaborative efforts between NFA Bulacan and the Local Government Units (LGUs) to promote agricultural development and economic growth in the region.

The media coverage in Bulacan not only highlighted the organization's achievements and innovative practices but also underscored its vital role in advancing agricultural sustainability and supporting the livelihoods of local farmers.

BAYANIHAN... (from page 15)

sold their palay to the NFA.

The NFA buys palay with the new Price Range Scheme (PRICERS) for NFA Region 3 of ₱30.00 for clean and dry (13%-14% MC) and ₱23.000 for fresh/wet (22%-29.9% MC).

The price bulletin of the new Price Range Scheme (PRICERS) is updated weekly to reflect changes based on the specific area served by the National Food Authority (NFA). This regular update ensures that the pricing information remains current and relevant to the region, allowing for accurate and timely adjustments to prices in line with market conditions and demands.

/ **GIANFRANCO M. VITERBO**



In the heart of the Philippines, the province of Nueva Ecija stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of “*Bayanihan*” – a deeply rooted cultural tradition of communal cooperation and mutual aid. This spirit is particularly evident in the way the region’s farmers have come together to support the National Food Authority’s procurement efforts, streamlining and expediting the process through their collective action.

Fostering Efficiency and Effectiveness

The farmers of Nueva Ecija have embraced the “*bayanihan*” approach to procurement, recognizing the power of unity and collaboration. The Vice President of the Provincial Farmers Action Council, Mr. Danilo A. Bolos, said, “*Kami mismo ang magbababa ng palay, kami mismo ang magresack ng palay, kami mismo ang magkakamada upang maisayos at tuloy-tuloy, maipasok ang palay ng magsasaka.*” By pooling their resources and laborers, these farmers have been able to contribute significantly to the efficiency and effectiveness of the National Food Authority’s acquisition of palay. Whether it’s the coordinated delivery of supplies or the shared labor in handling and processing the goods, the farmers’ collective efforts have played a crucial role in ensuring a steady and reliable supply of resources.

Preserving Cultural Traditions

The “*Bayanihan*” spirit that drives the farmers’ involvement in the procurement process is not just a practical solution; it is a testament to the enduring tradition of the Philippines. By embracing this collective approach, the farmers of Nueva Ecija are not only addressing immediate challenges but also preserving the rich tapestry of

BAYANIHAN PROCUREMENT IN NUEVA ECIJA



their heritage, passing on the values of community, cooperation and shared responsibility to future generations.

In conclusion, the “*Bayanihan*” of the farmers in Nueva Ecija is a shining example of the power of collective action and community-driven solutions.

By seamlessly integrating their labor and resources into the procurement process of the National Food Authority, these farmers have demonstrated the transformative potential of this time-honored tradition.

As the agricultural sector continues to evolve, the “*bayanihan*” spirit of Nueva Ecija serves as a beacon, inspiring others to harness the strength of unity and collaboration in pursuit of a more sustainable and prosperous future.

With their battlecry, “*Tulong-tulong para sa bayan, magbayanihan tayo!*”, the NFA Nueva Ecija Branch Office accumulated 67,282 bags of palay in just a span of one week. As of April 28, 2024, one hundred and thirty-five (135) individual farmers and five (5) revalidated farmer cooperatives (continued to page 14)



On a bright and promising day, the National Food Authority (NFA) hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the NFA Modernized Warehouse, marking a significant milestone in the Masagana Agri-Food Infrastructure Modernization (MAFIM) Program. This event not only symbolizes the beginning of an era but also highlights the commitment of the government to enhance food security and support local farmers.

A Vision for Modernization

The MAFIM Program is designed to address the challenges faced by the agricultural sector, particularly in postharvest technology. With the increasing demand for food security in the Philippines, it has become essential to modernize our agricultural infrastructure. The new warehouse will serve as a vital hub for buffer stocking, ensuring that rice supplies are managed effectively and efficiently.

The photo shows the groundbreaking ceremony led by NFA Administrator Larry R. Lacson, Ph.D., and was attended by Engr. John Robert R. Hermano, Chairperson of the MAFIM Program and Engr. Allan Joseph P. Abapo. Their presence underscored the importance of the initiative and dedication to improving the agricultural landscape in the country. Alongside them were NFA Region 3 executives.

Enhancing Food Security

One of the primary objectives of the modernized warehouse is to bolster food security across the nation. With rice being a staple food for Filipinos, ensuring its availability is crucial. The new facility will not only improve storage capacity but also reduce post-harvest losses, which have been a persistent challenge in the agricultural sector. By implementing advanced storage technologies and practices, the NFA creates an efficient system that minimizes wastes and maxi-

GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE NFA MODERNIZED WAREHOUSE: A NEW ERA FOR AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE



mizes resource utilization. This is particularly important given the unpredictable nature of climate change and its impact on agricultural production. The modernized warehouse will provide a reliable solution to these challenges, safeguarding our food resources for future generations.

Supporting Local Farmers

The NFA's commitment to supporting local farmers is at the heart of this initiative. By improving storage facilities, farmers will have better access to markets and can sell their produce at optimal prices. This not only benefits individual farmers but also strengthens local economies.

During the ceremony, several speakers emphasized the importance of empowering farmers through modernization efforts. Administrator Lacson highlighted that investing in infrastructure is investing in people. "When we support our farmers with better facilities, we are giving them the tools they need to succeed," he stated.

The modernized warehouse will also serve as a training center for best practices in post-harvest management.

Collaboration and Community Engagement

The success of the MAFIM Program relies heavily on collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, and private sector partners. The groundbreaking ceremony brought together representatives from different sectors who share a common goal: to improve agricultural infrastructure and enhance food security.

Community engagement plays a crucial role in ensuring that projects like these meet the needs of those they aim to serve. The NFA has committed to working closely with local communities throughout the construction process and beyond. By involving farmers in decision-making and implementation, we can ensure that their voices are heard and their needs are addressed.

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to the completion of the NFA Modernized Warehouse, there is a sense of optimism about what this project represents for the future of agriculture in the Philippines. This initiative is just one part of a broader strategy to modernize agricultural infrastructure across the country. / **GIANFRANCO M. VITERBO**

REGION 4

NFA PARTICIPATES IN “KAPIHAN SA BAGONG PILIPINAS”

NFA Region IV Acting Regional Manager Marko C. Callanta participated in the “Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas” last June 18, 2024 at Lipa Cultural Center, Lipa City, Batangas. He was accompanied by Acting Information Officer III Ma. Filipina M. Logmao and Alternate Information Officer Gemini H. Maderazo.

The activity was organized by the Presidential Communications Office through the Philippine Information Agency in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture Region IV-A CALABARZON. It aimed at carrying out President Marcos’ directives for all government agencies and institutions to promote their programs, projects and activities across the region, enhance awareness and encourage public participation.

The event was attended by DA attached agencies, friends from the media, bureaus, farmers, members of the Regional Management Committee headed by Director Sammy (RMC) Malvas of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Dra. Linda M. Lucela, Regional Technical Director for Research, Regulations and ILD, OIC-Regional Executive Director Fidel L. Libao, and Honorable Mayor Antonio Jose A. Barcelon of Nasugbo, Batangas, Division Chiefs and employees of the DA.



Highlights of the Kapihan included the accomplishment of the agriculture sector of the region under the present administration.

During the activity, Acting Regional Manager Callanta briefed the participants on the agency’s palay procurement program and the new palay buying price under the Price Range Scheme (PRICERS). This scheme offers farmers a competitive price for their produce, encouraging them to deliver and sell their palay harvest to the NFA, thereby contributing to an increase in the country’s buffer stock.

The “Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas” activity ended with a statement of support and gratitude from the resource persons from BFAR, LGU of Nasugbu Batangas, NFA Region IV and OIC Regional Director Fidel L. Libao from DA-Calabarzon. / **MA. FILIPINA M. LOGMAO**

EMPLOYEES PLEDGED TO BE RICEPONSIBLE



In observance of the National Rice Awareness Month in November, the NFA Regional Office and Batangas Branch Office pledged to be RicePonsible during their Monday flag-raising ceremony to promote responsible rice consumption. The event encouraged employees to appreciate local farmers and prioritize healthier, domestically-produced rice.

To further emphasize the importance of rice conservation and nutritional value of brown rice, an interactive trivia session was conducted. The activity concluded with the serving of a comforting and flavorful Filipino rice-based meal to employees, popularly known as Arroz Caldo.

/ **MA. FILIPINA M. LOGMAO**



The NFA Batangas Branch Office continues to fulfill its mission of providing rice for victims of calamities and emergencies ensuring food security for the country. A key part of this role is to supply the rice needs of various agencies involved in disaster responder or relief efforts.

On June 14, 2024, the Office of the Civil Defense withdrew 2,180 bags of rice from the NFA Office. These rice stocks were purchased for distribution to families affected by Typhoon Aghon in the CALABARZON area. "Aghon" was the first tropical cyclone to hit the country this year, impacting over 16,000 households across Central Luzon, Metro Manila, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, the Bicol Region, Central Visayas, and Eastern Visayas.

Another significant rice requirement addressed by the branch was the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) - Field Office 4A - CALABARZON's purchase of 20,000 bags. The rice request was included in the DSWD's "Family Food Pack," intended for distribution to families affected by the El Niño, typhoons, and the anticipated La Niña.

/ MARY-ANN A. TORRES

NFA BATANGAS ADDRESSES CALAMITIES AND RICE NEEDS



Uniformed Personnel assisting the NFA during the withdrawal of rice requested by the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD).



Loading of rice purchased by the Department of Social Welfare and Development Field Office IV-A CALABARZON.

PROMOTING NFA ACTIONS



Acting Regional Manager Marko C. Callanta, in an interview with Ms. Denise Abante of GMA Regional Television in Batangas City on May 23, 2024, assured the public and the TV news anchor that NFA Region IV has sufficient buffer stock to meet the rice requirements of relief agencies during calamities or emergencies.

Acting RM Callanta also informed Ms. Abante about the new palay buying price under the NFA Price Range Scheme, which has increased from ₱23.00 to ₱30.00 per kilogram, providing local farmers with a competitive price for their produce.

/ MA. FILIPINA M. LOGMAO

NFA REGION IV CONDUCTS SEMINAR-WORKSHOP ON ORAOHRA



Civil Service Commission Director II Lily Beth L. Majomot, Subject Matter Expert (SME), shares rules and provisions during the Seminar-Workshop on ORAOHRA conducted at NFA Region IV.



Participants are all ears listening to the SME. A question and answer portion was provided during the workshop to answer queries and listen to suggestions to fast track relative proceedings.

To ensure compliance and to be updated on the latest provisions and guidelines relating to personnel actions, NFA Region IV, in collaboration with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Region IV, conducted a three-day seminar entitled *"The Role of Gender in Establishing Unbiased Personnel Actions Thru Seminar-Workshop on the 2017 Omnibus Rules on Appointments and Other Human Resource Actions (ORAOHRA), as amended"*, last February 14-16, 2024 at NFA Regional Office IV, Batangas City.

This 3-day activity initiated by the Regional Office aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of the employees particularly the members of the Human Resource Merit Promotion and Selection Board (HRMPSB) in the efficient preparation of appointments, various processes and requirements involved in recruitment, promotion, transfer and other human resource actions. This was participated by the regular members of the HRMPSB, Acting Assistant Branch Managers, Administrative Officers, employee representatives of the Branch Offices, section chiefs and staff of the Regional Office.

The Subject-Matter Specialist was one of the respected Director of CSC Region IV, Director II Ms. Lilybeth L. Majomot from CSC Batangas. She discussed in detail the rules and provisions of the ORAOHRA and answered queries and clarifications raised by the employees peculiar to the Agency particularly on hiring and promotion.

The seminar provided the participants with a deeper understanding on the specific CSC rules on appointments and other personnel actions.

The productive and engaging activity ended with sharing of key take aways of the participants and evaluation of the 3-day seminar facilitated by the AGS Section.
/ **MA. FILIPINA M. LOGMAO**

NFA BICOL RECEIVES PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION FROM BJMP



In recognition of the agency's outstanding support and valuable contributions to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) Region V, Acting Regional Manager Julie B. Llenaresas received a Plaque of Appreciation on July 19, 2024 at the Casablanca Hotel and Convention Center, Legazpi City during the former's 33rd Anniversary Celebration.

In her message, BJMP RO V Regional Director, JSSupt Elena B. Rocamora thanked their partner agencies including the NFA Bicol for the partnership which has been vital to the Bureau's accomplishments.



The NFA Bicol Region has been their partner in ensuring the rice supply to the BJMPs clientele, the Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs). The Bureau commended NFA for the good quality of rice issued to the district, city, and municipal jails of the region.

In response, Acting RM Llenaresas expressed gratitude to the BJMP and assured them of NFA Bicol's support to their programs and initiatives.

/JAHARAH SHYRRAR. PAVILANDO

The National Food Authority Bicol Region, in coordination with the National Anti-Poverty Commission on September 5, 2024 hosted the Inter-Agency Meeting for the Proposed Bicol Poverty Summit.

During the meeting, representatives of different agencies discussed and identified the parameters and scope of the proposed Bicol Poverty Summit. They identified and defined the roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders in the event, and marked the preparations and negotiations and discussed the institutional supports of the partner government agencies.

NFA AND NAPC BICOL HOST IAC MEETING FOR THE POVERTY SUMMIT



NFA Economist IV Menna C. Endaya thanked NAPC Bicol led by Officer-In-Charge, Director, Nolan V. Banda for recognizing the undertakings of the agency in performing its mandate of managing efficiently and effectively the acquisition, quality maintenance, and disposition of NFA's buffer stock during emergencies and calamities. NFA Bicol assured to give full support to the endeavors of the NAPC.

/ JAHARAH SHYRRAR. PAVILANDO

In preparation for the main cropping season, a two-day refresher briefing for QAOs and QA pool members was conducted on August 27-28, 2024 at the National Food Authority Sorsogon Branch Office.

Regional Standards and Quality Assurance Officer Shalimar Samson from NFA Bicol Regional Office, together with Branch Standards and Quality Assurance Officer Ma. Theresa E. Estavillo, and Engineer III James Patrick Madrid spearheaded the discussions during the briefing-seminar, that aims to refresh the knowledge and skills of all those employees that are involved in the technicality of the quality assurance activities.

The briefing also addressed all the issues and concerns of the quality assurance personnel particularly those that involves and focuses on the procurement activities of the branch which is crucial in the management decisions and the agency's operations as a whole.

The QAO participants-pool members were encouraged to apply what they have learned during the refresher briefing, to further ensure that excellent products and services were given to the stakeholders of the agency. / KEVIN C. GUEVARA

REFRESHER BRIEFING FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICERS



The participants undergone hands-on training on sensory and evaluation, which is among the salient parts of the quality assurance operations, after the conduct of theoretical briefing.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In support of the National Disaster Resilience Month (NDRM) celebrated this July, 2024 with the theme: **"HANDA PILIPINAS: Bantayog ng Katatagan at ang Pagbubuklod sa Layuning Kahandaan"**, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Provincial Government of Sorsogon and the Government and Non-Government Sectors in the Province of Sorsogon was signed on July 11, 2024.



The Provincial Government of Sorsogon Chief Hon. Edwin "Boboy" B. Hamor and the Sorsogon Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, with the participating Government and Non-Government Organizations, signed the MOA and MOU with NFA Sorsogon to establish, encourage, and maintain an efficient and united response in times of natural and man-made calamities or disasters. / KEVIN C. GUEVARA

OATH TAKING OF NEWLY HIRED EMPLOYEES OF NFA SORSOGON BRANCH



Officer-in-Charge - Branch Manager Ricardo O. Bayani Jr. on July 22, 2024, facilitated the oath-taking of the newly hired employees of National Food Authority Sorsogon Branch.

Engineer II Harold Zamora and Truck Driver Gerald Boquinquito took their oath and were formally welcomed to the team by OIC BM Bayani, Administrative Officer V Shearone L. Dimaano, and NFA-EA President Warehouse Supervisor II Willie D. Llaneta.

The branch congratulated the newly appointed employees and encouraged them to continue serving with the highest degree of responsibility, integrity and efficiency and remain accountable to the people. / KEVIN C. GUEVARA

NFA ALBAY EMPLOYEES AT PHILHEALTH KONSULTA PROGRAM



On July 26, 2024, NFA Albay branch employees attended the orientation and update session conducted by Ms. Ma. Jemma B. Ceneta of Philhealth, focusing on the Philhealth KONSULTA: Konsultang Sulit at Tama Program. During the event, OIC-Branch Manager Marlon U. Mateum expressed gratitude to Philhealth for providing NFA Albay with the opportunity to be informed about their current programs.

Ms. Ceneta and the Philhealth Legazpi City team shared detailed information on the benefits of Philhealth membership, the various KONSULTA packages, and the process for availing of the program. The Philhealth team also assisted NFA Albay employees in registering for Philhealth KONSULTA, enabling them to access services such as con-

TEST MILLING OPERATIONS IN ALBAY

On July 25, 2024, NFA Albay conducted test milling activities. OIC-Branch Manager Marlon U. Mateum led the inspection at Simeon Sy Rice Mill in Tabaco to assess the milling process.

Present during the test milling were committee members including Engineer III Edsel Benavides of Facility Management, Branch Quality Assurance Officer Paolo Valdez, Truck Driver/Milling Supervisor Ronald Ecleo, Accounts Analyst Mary Rosalie Milleza from the Accounting Department, and Commission on Audit representative Aljon Ventura.

Following the inspection, OIC-BM Mateum visited Bicol Seeds Inc (BSI) Warehouse, in Libon to oversee the withdrawal of palay for test milling at Sacamico Rice Mill in Tabaco City. BSI Acting Warehouse Supervisor Florante E. Reason supervised the withdrawal process.

The test milling is being conducted by the branch in preparation for the regular milling to increase the buffer stock in preparation for potential emergencies and calamities as the rainy season begins.

/ CHRISTINA D. ALCANTARA

sultations, health screening and assessment, selected laboratory and diagnostic tests, and specific drugs and medicines.

The orientation was organized by the Administrative Section through Administrative Officer V Mae Sharon O. Lovedioro, with the goal to inform all employees about the new Philhealth packages, health-care benefits, and the methods for accessing these services.

/ CHRISTINA D. ALCANTARA

NFA ALBAY EXCEEDS PALAY PROCUREMENT TARGET



From July to September 2024, NFA Albay successfully procured 11,777 bags of palay from local farmers, exceeding its target of 11,550 bags. Farmers took advantage of the PRICERs offered by the NFA and utilized the branch's buying station pavements for drying their harvest.

The procurement efforts were led by OIC-Branch Manager Marlon U. Mateum and SGO/OIC-Assistant Branch Manager Aileen A. Poyatos, with commitment support from branch staff. Once delivered, the wet palay was promptly dried at the drying facility in BSI, Libon, managed by diligent Mechanical Plant Operator Dante C. Baldemor, Jr., who served as the accountable officer. The coordinated effort of the NFA Albay team made the procurement target more achievable.

/ **CHRISTINA D. ALCANTARA**

HYBRID BRIEFING ON STOCK MANAGEMENT



NFA Bicol oriented the stock accountable officers (SAOs) from its branch offices on stock management protocols to further enhance warehouse operations on September 10-11, 2024.

The two-day hybrid sessions were attended by Warehouse Supervisors, Warehouse Assistants, Classifiers, and Mechanical Plant Operators.

The NFA Albay regional staff shared key insights into areas of stock management to ensure the efficient handling of government resources for organized, clean, and secure warehouse environment to maintain stock quality and safe staff.

Among the topics discussed during the briefing includes the use of accountable forms specifically the importance of accurate documentation of stock movements for effective inventory, the operational and administrative aspects in operation.

NFA JOINS CELEBRATION OF 124TH PHILIPPINE CIVIL SERVICE ANNIVERSARY

The NFA Bicol Regional and Albay Branch Office joined the 124th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary dubbed as *Sabayang Indak, Sigaw at Saya* on September 6, 2024 at the Albay Astrodome, Legazpi City.

Selected representatives from government agencies, including personnel from the NFA Bicol Regional Office and Albay Branch Office, showcased their remarkable talents during the program. A total of 589 civil servants from across the region participated in the activity, which included the *Sabayang Indak*, or *Zumba*.



The *Sabayang Indak, Sigaw at Saya* gathered the civil servants in the region to celebrate, to boost camaraderie, and to join together for a unity dance or *Sabayang Indak* and to experience "Bayanihan" in its simplest form which is sharing of food (*saluhan*) with fellow participating civil servants. / **JAHARAH SHYRRA R. PAVILANDO**

After the technical discussions, Acting Regional Manager Julie B. Llenaresas urged the SAOs to maintain open communication, particularly with their supervisors and the finance department to address challenges, especially in documentation. She said that the issues faced by accountable officers reflect broader challenges within the government, as the NFA is responsible for managing the country's buffer stock.

/ **CHRISTINA D. ALCANTARA**

EMPOWERING INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY for Sustainable Food Security

On February 5, 2024, the National Food Authority (NFA) Western Visayas held the Engineers' Meeting at the Western Visayas Regional Office Conference Room.

The gathering brought together the region's certified engineering team to discuss key aspects of infrastructure development for NFA Region VI, including the planning, procurement, implementation, and monitoring of critical projects.

The meeting, led by the NFA's engineering experts, also revisited essential training on Geotagging Technology and the Constructor's Performance Evaluation System.

These sessions ensured that the latest technological advancements and evaluation tools were effectively integrated into NFA's operations, enhancing the precision and accountability of infrastructure projects.



The NFA Western Visayas Engineering Team, comprised of Engineers Clark M. Obja an, Leo Pineda, Joemer L. Sibug, Glen Saldevia, Kenneth dela Peña, Danilo L. Lozada, and Jessie Ian Tumulak, played an important role in the discussions. They showcased their expertise and commitment to upholding the agency's standards.

The meeting also reflected the NFA's dedication for continuous improvement and innovation in its infrastructure initiatives, ensuring that the agency can effectively support the food security needs of the region. The inclusion of advanced technologies and evaluation systems marks a forward thinking approach in the NFA's mission to maintain and upgrade its facilities in a sustainable and efficient manner.

For NFA's 52nd Anniversary, the agency's Western Visayas Regional Office (WVRO), led by Acting Regional Manager Herrielle Jumagbas, actively participated in the tree-growing initiative last September 20, 2024. This event, organized by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, aimed to promote environmental stewardship and community support.

Under the theme *"Malasakit sa Kalikasan, Malasakit sa Lingkod Bayan"*, the initiative seeks to plant at least 10,000 trees while raising funds for the CSC's Pamanang Lingkod Bayani (PLBi) Program. This program provides support to the families of fallen civil servants, honoring their contributions and sacrifices.

ROOTED IN CHANGE, GROWING A BETTER FUTURE Tree Growing for a Cause



Through its participation in the tree-planting activity, the NFA WVRO not only contributed to reforestation efforts but also reinforced its commitment to social responsibility and environmental protection. This initiative created a positive impact on the environment and promoted a greener, healthier future.

POST HARVEST VISIT AT NFA ILOILO

A Collaboration with JICA



JICA collaborators' visit of a post-harvest facility (PHF) in the NFA Iloilo Branch Office.

On September 12, members of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Survey Team, under Sanyu Consultants, Inc., visited the National Food Authority (NFA) Western Visayas Regional Office and the Post Harvest Facilities at the NFA Iloilo Branch Office in Jaro, Iloilo City. The team was led by Mr. Kotaro Kikuchi, with Mr. Shinichi Arai, Mr. Yasunori Araki, Mr. Yutaro Takamura, Ms. Hiroka Kato, and Ms. Anicia Papa.

The purpose of their visit was to conduct a Data Collection Survey on Post-Harvest Modernization of Rice in the Republic of the Philippines. The survey focused on three major rice-producing provinces: Nueva Ecija (Luzon), Iloilo (Visayas), and Bukidnon (Mindanao). The visit was done to gather essential data and information for JICA's information and as reference for future cooperation projects aimed at enhancing post harvest practices in the Philippines.

UPHOLDING STANDARDS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Compliance to ARTA

The National Food Authority (NFA) Western Visayas Regional Office and NFA Iloilo Branch Office underwent an on-site inspection by the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) Regional Field Office Western Visayas. The inspection, which involved comprehensive spot checks, was conducted to ensure that both offices are adhering to legal regulations and promoting efficient service delivery to the agency's stakeholders.

The NFA Western Visayas fully supports ARTA's efforts and demonstrated its unwavering dedication to public service and regulatory compliance through adherence.

The initiative is part of a broader effort to streamline processes, reduce bureaucratic red tape, and ensure that government agencies like the NFA remain accountable in their operations.

By aligning with ARTA's mission, the NFA Western Visayas reaffirms its role in safeguarding the region's food security while maintaining the highest standards of service excellence.

The inspection not only highlighted the agency's compliance but also reinforced its commitment to continuously improve, and ensuring that the NFA remains a trusted pillar in food security management across the Western Visayas Region specially in the ease of doing future and digitalization of information to effectively render services. / **OLMA NEDIA**



The photograph above shows the team that conducted the onsite visit to check and verify the NFA Western Visayas' compliance to the rules and regulations on the ease of doing business being implemented by the government through the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA).

EMPOWERING FARMERS

Ensuring Fair Prices:
Bago City's Commitment to the PALLGU



On February 5, 2024 a significant event took place in Bago City, Negros Occidental, marking the collaborative effort to support local farmers. Mayor Nicholas M. Yulo, alongside City Agriculturist Marvin John Blance, formally turned over the PALLGU check to ABM John Alvarez of the National Food Authority (NFA). This gesture underscores the Local Government Unit's commitment to enhancing the livelihoods of rice farmers in the area.

As part of the PALLGU - Palay Pricing and Livelihood Growth Program, the Bago City government has pledged to provide a top-up premium of ₱1.00 per kilogram for the local farmer who sells their palay to the NFA. This initiative is designed to incentivize farmers, encouraging them to deliver their harvest directly to the NFA, where they can receive fair compensation for their hard work. The collaboration between the local government and the NFA represents a vital step toward strengthening the agricultural community in Bago City. By offering this additional financial support, city officials lessens the economic pressures faced by farmers and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Photo (right) shows local farmers during a briefing on the NFA PRICERS conducted by Dr. Glenda G. Paz, Economist IV. She reminded the members of the Lateral C Irrigators Association on their commitment under the 2023 MOA to support the NFA's palay procurement efforts, ensuring that enough rice stocks are available for emergency situations and natural calamities.

KICKING OF SNEAKER'S FRIDAY

Promoting Physical and Mental Activities for
Employees



On October 4, 2024, the National Food Authority (NFA) Western Visayas Regional Office (WVRO) launched an exciting new initiative: Sneaker's Friday! The activity aims to become a tradition, of inviting employees to wear their favorite sneakers and promoting both physical activity and a healthier mindset.

Sneaker's Friday not only creates a more relaxed and enjoyable work environment but also fosters camaraderie among team members. The effort is a way to wrap up the week and recharge for the days ahead.

The initiative was spearheaded by Acting Regional Manager Herrielle Yeng Jumagbas and Acting Supervising Administrative Officer Gladdys Gallano. Their commitment has transformed Sneaker's Friday into a cherished tradition that boosts workplace morale and well-being.



REGION 7

BSQAO Dionisio Malayao, together with Classifier Carl Dominic Oponda from the Quality Assurance Section, conducted a briefing and training session for concerned employees on the operation of moisture meters and the portable rice mill at the GID warehouse.

RM Maria Fe H. Evasco emphasized that the training is part of the agency's continuous advocacy. She expressed gratitude to the QA personnel for providing employees with essential basic training on the efficient and effective operation of these tools, particularly during palay procurement operations.

TRAINING ON QUALITY ASSURANCE EQUIPMENT



Participants listened attentively to gain deeper knowledge and updates on the agency's rice quality assurance strategies.

WAREHOUSE INSPECTION

RM Maria Fe H. Evasco and ARM Ovelito Baritua alongside BM Pilita P. Barajan and Engineer III Marlon Dalde conduct a site inspection of the ongoing rehabilitation of the Food Security Center (FSC) warehouse in Brgy. Bay-ang, Ubay.

The NFA team met with the contractor to discuss updates on the project implementation and engineering design details. Once completed, the warehouse will have an effective capacity of 20,000 bags, serving as both a palay buying station and a grains storage facility.



Regular and mandatory inspections of NFA warehouses are integral to the agency's good warehouse-keeping practices.

PFAC MEETING

OIC BM Elisa G. Mojica and OIC ABM Zita Mahinay welcomed the members of PFAC Bohol, led by Chairman Deuel Puracan, for the 1st PFAC meeting of CY 2024. OIC Mojica apprised the group of NFA's initiatives and assured them of continued service delivery. She also informed them about the palay procurement program, with NFA's buying price set at ₱23.00 per kilogram for clean and dry palay. Chairman Puracan provided updates on his participation in the recent PFAB meeting at the NFA.



PFAC NEGROS ORIENTAL MEETING

As part of the celebration for the NFA's 52nd Anniversary, OIC-BM Emily Diputado called for a meeting for the officers of the PFAC in Negros Oriental. Several issues and concerns from the farmers were discussed during the meeting.

OIC-BM Diputado assured the officers that issues raised will be tackled during the upcoming RFAC meeting and NFA will look for ways on how to properly address them.



INTENSIFIED PALAY PROCUREMENT IN NEGROS ORIENTAL

Saturating the Field



Photo above shows the actual drawing of palay samples and testing of the harvest' quality during the field procurement. The procedure is part of the procurement process prior to payment of the local harvest.



Administrative Officer II and Acting Classifier Lilibeth Bohol conducts moisture testing in the middle of the rice field. The activity is part of the field/mobile palay procurement of the branch.



The photo (left) features NFA Administrator Larry R. Lacson, department managers, and acting regional managers /OICs gathered for the Annual Integrated National Planning Conference held in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental on September 3-6, 2024.

The planning conference was hosted by NFA Region 7.

BOOSTING PALAY PROCUREMENT, DISTRIBUTION



In an effort to foster stronger ties with the local government units, NFA Administrator Larry Lacson paid a courtesy meeting with Cebu Provincial Governor Gwendolyn F. Garcia on April 30, 2024.

Administrator Lacson formally introduced himself to Gov. Garcia and apprised the governor of the programs of the NFA, particularly on palay procurement.

He emphasized that the price range scheme aims to boost the country's rice buffer stock.

The provincial governor presented to the administrator the different programs of the capitol that require rice supply from the NFA. Administrator Lacson said that he would do his best to look for ways to accommodate the rice purchase requests of the provincial capitol.

The administrator assured Gov. Garcia that NFA and its workforce would continue to be an esteemed partner of the Province of Cebu in the implementation of its programs.

Gov. Garcia conveyed her utmost appreciation to the administrator for taking time to visit her and extend his steadfast support to the initiatives of the capitol.

During the meeting, Administrator Lacson was accompanied by Administrative and General Services Department Head Joey C. Pimentel, OIC-Regional Manager Ovelito C. Baritua, and OIC-Branch Manager Kristine T. Vincoy.

Meanwhile, the Administrator engaged with the agency's stakeholders, including legislators, local government officials, and farmers, to personally address their concerns regarding the palay procurement program and other agency initiatives.

COMMENDABLE JACK OF CEBU

No odd-job is too big, as one true handyman would claim. This is an ideal testimony to one of our dependable and reliable employees of the NFA Cebu Branch Office, who has been committed to his work since he set foot in this agency. Jonel P. Monares has dedicated his life's work to NFA for over 25 years. He started off as a Utility Worker II for 11 years, and 13 more years as a Mechanical Plant Operator III, but this doesn't limit him from doing more than just cleaning and doing basic repair works.

He is known to be the "jack of all trades," due to his versatility in performing beyond basic electrical, carpentry, painting, and plumbing work as well as general maintenance. His ability to manage a diverse array of odd-jobs makes him invaluable for maintaining the functionality and aesthetics of facilities in NFA Branch Office. One of his accomplishments is the repair at a minimal cost of the Rice Fortification Equipment (RFE) installed at NFA Cebu Warehouse No. 46 located at NFA Compound, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City.

Equipped with mechanical skills and knowledge in the technical field, Mr. Monares was commended by the Regional Office.



Living up to his accomplishments and successes, he truly has made an indelible mark through his hardships and unwavering commitment to our NFA CBO Team.

ADMINISTRATOR LACSON MEETS BILIRAN FARMERS

The pouring rain did not dampen the spirits of the attendees during the UGNAYAN meeting with the farmers of the province of Biliran, graced by NFA Administrator Larry R. Lacson. The momentous activity was held at the NFA Naval Satellite Office compound on June 19, 2024.

Administrator Lacson thanked the farmers for the support they have been extending to the NFA in its bid to increase its buffer stocks through the palay procurement program of the agency. The Administrator assured the farmers present that drying facilities will be installed in all NFA warehouses by the end of the current year or by next year. These facilities will not only meet the NFA requirements but will also be available for farmers to use at a minimal cost.

The farmers were pleased to have the chance to air their questions and concerns during the open forum, which covered issues not only related to the palay procurement program of the NFA but also to matters within the Department of Agriculture and its attached agencies. The good Administrator listened intently to their sentiments, addressed the points raised, and assured the attendees that he would report to all concerned agencies what has been discussed during the meeting.

“Sa ngayon ang nangyayari sa grounds, sa NFA dito sa Biliran, nagiging witness ako sa magandang pagpapatupad at magandang pamamahala at pamimili...maraming salamat po sa NFA.” PAFC Chairperson Bebito Matuguinas said. He, along with the other farmers in attendance, thanked Administrator Lacson for the competitive palay buying price of NFA, which they have enjoyed as they sell their produce to NFA.



Biliran Municipal Agriculture Officer (MAO) Lemuel Antonio airs his concerns to Administrator Larry R. Lacson during the latter's official visit to Biliran to attend the UGNAYAN meeting with farmers in the province.

The NFA Council on April 18, 2024 approved the implementation of the Price Range Scheme (PRICERS) for the NFA's Palay Procurement Activity as per Implementing Guidelines, which states that the effective buying price of palay per province shall be adjusted and approved on a weekly basis based on the prevailing ex-farm palay prices and other considerations. A weekly Buying Price Bulletin (BPB) will be followed, which refers to the composition of the newly approved NFA base support price for palay set at ₱23.00/kg for clean and dry and ₱17.00/kg for fresh/wet palay plus PALLGU premium as applicable.

Also present during the convergence were Atty. Ana Lorraine S. Del Rosario, Executive Assistant Atty. Maria Lucila Margarita P. Mangrobang, OIC Regional Manager Gerard V. Lim, PFAC Chairperson Rebecca Payos, members and officers of the PAFC, MAFA, UNGALE, and Villaconsuelo farmer cooperatives and associations, Biliran Municipal Agriculturist Lemuel Antonio, Nelson Sarsoza Jr. of the National Irrigation Administration, media partners Mary Lailane Tupaz of the PIA, Mar-Joan Aguilos of RADYO Natin and Disa de Leon of the Biliran Information Office. / **ELLA VIRCELLE E. EGUILLOS**

TRAINING ON METROLOGY



The Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) Engr. Marcelino M. Nicer Jr., Technical Manager and Engr. Rodeon Nino P. Mercader, Analyst of the Metrology and Calibration Laboratory share their technical know-how to employees of the NFA Eastern Visayas during the Seminar/Training on the Introduction to Metrology and Verification of Non-Automatic Weighing Instruments (NAWI) on July 30-31, 2024.

INSPECTION OF RICE DONATED BY MAFF-JAPAN TO THE PHILIPPINES



The NFA Eastern Visayas warmly welcomed the delegation from the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Secretariat led by its General Manager, Dr. Choomjet Kamjanakesorn, together with Mr. Akinori Ando, Japanese Expert, Ms. Jansinee Kankaew, Head of Implementation, and Ms. Suthatip Mapaen, Sr. Accounting and Financial Staff, and Ms. Sita Kumpol, Secretary to the Japanese Expert. The team inspected the 300 MT rice donated by Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF-JAPAN) to the Philippines as part of the implementation of the TIER 3 Program under the APTERR. The rice inspected are stored at NFA Port Warehouse, Tacloban City.

The NFA was represented by Rosalyn D. Comia, Acting Division Manager of OCD-OPMD, and Gerard V. Lim, Acting Regional Manager of NFA Eastern Visayas, Acting Asst. Regional Manager Venus N. Prima, Acting Branch Manager Talitha Thea B. Arpon of NFA Leyte, and Joeffrey M. Plata, Leyte Acting Assistant Branch Manager. Personnel from the NFA OCD-CO and Regional and Leyte Branch employees witnessed the inspection.



Photo of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve delegates after the rice donation inspection and meeting with the representatives of the concerned Philippine government instrumentalities.

After the inspection, the delegation proceeded to the NFA Eastern Visayas in Palo, Leyte, for a scheduled meeting with the NFA, the DSWD, and APTERR Secretariat to discuss the results of the 750 MT of milled rice distribution. Ms. Lucia G. Balantad, OIC-Division Chief of the Disaster Response Management Division, and Mr. Theo Felices represented the Department of Social Welfare and Development at the meeting. The results of the implementation of the 750MT pre-positioned stockpiled emergency rice reserve were presented. The rice donated will be distributed to affected families of flooding and landslides in the Provinces of Samar. / **ELLA VIRCELLE E. EGUILLOS**

NFA JOINS BRIGADA ESKWELA AT PAWING CENTRAL SCHOOL



In anticipation of the 2024–2025 academic year, employees from the Regional Office and Leyte Branch Office took part in the Brigada Eskwela, which was held on July 23, 2024, at Pawing Central School in Pawing, Palo, Leyte.

Principal II Ruel C. Castañares graciously accepted the office donation of cleaning materials in support of this noble initiative and to foster a stronger partnership as stakeholders.

Brigada Eskwela or the National School Maintenance Week, "mobilizes various sectors of society to contribute their time, effort, and resources to ensure that schools are safe, clean, and conducive to learning. The collective effort addressed immediate physical needs and fostered a spirit of community and shared responsibility for the education of our youth."

/ **ELLA VIRCELLE E. EGUILLOS**





NFA Administrator Larry R. Lacson (center), OIC-Deputy Administrator Mario G. Andrada (center) with Acting Regional Manager Gerard V. Lim (6th from left), Economist IV Eduard Jayson M. Conchada (5th from left) and Regional Managers and Economists of Top Performing Regions for the 1st semester of 2024.

NFA EASTERN VISAYAS, AMONG THE TOP PERFORMING REGIONS FOR THE FIRST SEMESTER OF 2024

Acting Regional Manager Gerard V. Lim and Economist IV Eduard Jayson M. Conchada received a Certificate of Recognition from Administrator Larry R. Lacson and OIC-Deputy Administrator Mario G. Andrada on July 24, 2024 during the 1st Semestral Assessment and Operational Planning Conference in Iloilo City.

The token was given to the region for its exceptional performance and collaboration, resulting in a 102% increase in palay procurement to 3,087 MT, exceeding the approved target of 3,040 MT for the First Semester of 2024.

The NFA Eastern Visayas appreciated the received accolade and assured the management that the region will continue the aggressive palay buying to further beef up the region's stock inventory for distribution during disasters and calamities.



BAGONG PILIPINAS SERBISYO FAIR: Acting Regional Manager Gerard V. Lim (front row, leftmost) and Acting Assistant Regional Manager Venus N. Prima (front row, 2nd from the left) pose in solidarity with other Heads of Agencies during the 2024 Mega Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair (2024 BPSF) Opening Ceremony at the Leyte Sports Development Center, Tacloban City on August 2, 2024.

NFA, NIA AND FIAs INK AGREEMENT AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY

The National Food Authority signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and a number of Northern Samar Farmers' Irrigators Associations (FIAs) at Ephinz Food Hauz in Catarman.

The MOA, which is a strategic partnership between the NFA, NIA, and FIAs, allows NIA to assist FIAs in managing irrigation effectively and efficiently, thereby increasing production; it allows FIAs to supply palay volume in accordance with the required quality; and it directly benefits NFA by acting as a buyer at a government-supported buying price and applicable additional incentives.

NFA officials of Region 8 were all in attendance during the signing of the agreement.

Members of the Northern Samar Farmers Irrigators Associations, as well as its Division Manager Georden A. Lemsic of the NIA Northern Samar Irrigation Management Office, were also present during the event to help alleviate hunger and poverty in the area.

/JUVEE ANN GREMIO – BERDAN



Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement on the EPAHP with various stakeholders.

REGION 9

INSPECTION OF RICE DONATED BY MAFF-JAPAN

NFA Administrator Larry R. Lacson with Assistant Administrator for Finance and Administration Veralew DG. De Vera and Executive Assistant Atty. Maria Lucila Margarita P. Mangrobang conducted inspection on the quality of rice and palay stocks as well as the palay procurement operations in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay and in Zamboanga City on November 12, 2024 during their visit in the Region.

As of November 15, 2024 NFA Region IX's palay procurement is already up by 160% compared to the annual accomplishment in 2023. The region has already procured a total of 190,007 bags of palay, a significant increase from last year's 73,188 bags. This notable change is attributed to the Palay Marketing Assistance Program for Legislators and Local Government Unit (PALLGU) and the Price Range Scheme (PRICERS) signed by the NFA Council on April 18, 2024 and implemented by NFA on April 22, 2024.

During the rounds of inspection, Acting Regional Manager Jordan L. Valente, OIC-BM Joann B. Bernardo, OIC-Rogelio Antonio B. Lumo, OIC-ABM Christine O. Burlasa, OIC-ABM Mary Annabelle B. Castaño and other Region IX operations personnel accompanied the Administrator and party.



Administrator Lacson with some NFA officials inspect the warehouse operations in NFA San Roque, Zamboanga City.

SEMINAR-WORKSHOP FOR GRAINS CLASSIFIERS' POOL MEMBERS

NFA Region IX conducted a Seminar-Workshop for Grains Classifiers' Pool Members on October 9 to 10, 2024 at NFA Atrium and Laboratory in Zamboanga City. The Seminar-Workshop was participated by eight (8) employees and spearheaded by the Regional Office IX.

The activity began with a pre-test for the participating employees followed by lectures on NFA Palay Procurement Program, SOP on Palay Corn Classification Coding System Procurement, Grain Anatomy and Variety Code, Inspection and Sampling During Procurement, ENW Factor, Operation, Care and Maintenance of Moisture Meter with Demo, Principles of Grain Drying, Milling and Storage, Physical Analysis Procedure for Palay and Milled Rice and Staining Solution, and Task and Responsibilities of Classifier. The day 2 lectures were composed of 10 Fundamental Standards on Stock Quality Maintenance and Good Warehousing Keeping Management, Flowchart of Quality Assurance from Procurement, laboratory workshops, and a Post Test. Speakers for the two-day seminar-workshop were RSQAO Lloyd Q. Son, BSQAO Kristine S. Araojo, Acting BSQAO Earl Abarri, Engineer III Terry Joy N. Pacas, and Engineer III Jeffrey Rumbaua.

The participants received their Certificates of Completion. In his closing remarks, RM Jordan Valente highlighted the importance of Quality Assurance and the role of Classifiers in NFA Operations. He challenged the new set of Classifiers to be both passionate and firm on their grain classification activities in the future. With the ongoing palay procurement in the region, RM Valente stressed that the seminar-workshop was timely and essential to ensure that employees are equipped to handle the high volume of palay procurement while ensuring that stocks being procured conform with NFA standards. / **THEA ANGELIE ALAVAR**



TRAINING ON ENHANCING SKILLS AND SAFETY OF MPOs

Zamboanga del Sur Branch concluded a comprehensive training program on Mechanical Drying Operations, Maintenance, and Safety for our agency's Mechanical Plant Operators (MPOs) on February 23, 2024.

Branch Manager Jess M. Casimiro spearheaded the training that took place on February 22-23, 2024 in Zamboanga del Sur Office in Pagadian City.

The training aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of eleven (11) Mechanical Plant Operators from the branch, equipping them with the latest industry insights and best practices in mechanical drying operations.

The program covered various aspects, including maintenance procedures and safety protocols crucial for efficient and secure plant operations with the distinguished resource speakers - Assistant Branch Manager Engr. Rogelio Antonio B. Lumo, BSQAO Kristine S. Arajo, and Engineer III Novem A. Rosario.



NFA Zamboanga del Sur Branch Manager Casimiro, in his remarks motivates the participants to apply their knowhow in plant operations.

On the second day, a plant tour was made possible by Mr. Louie Richie Ong, represented by Mr. Ryan Ong and staff of the Mindanao Golden Grains Corporation (MGGC) located at Bagong Silang, Balangasan, Pagadian City. Participants were exposed to innovative techniques and equipment that optimize efficiency and output in their daily operations which everyone looked forward to, especially with the upcoming installation of a mother station at NFA Molave in the coming years.

BM Casimiro appreciates the outcome of the training, stating that the initiative reflects the agency's commitment to continuously invest in the development of our employees. By equipping the MPOs, the branch does not only enhance operational efficiency but also contribute to the overall growth of the NFA. He said that another training will be held to conduct updating and enhancement of knowhow of the MPOs.

The participants, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to undergo the training program highlighting the practicality and applicability of the knowledge gained to their day-to-day responsibilities.

/ AISSA ABEGAIL DAEL

DISASTER RESILIENCY : Protecting Assets of the Agency

The National Food Authority has a mandate of ensuring food security in the country by maintaining an optimal-level of rice-grain inventory to be sourced solely from local farmers, distributing them during times of emergencies and sustaining the disaster relief programs of the government. NFA plays a prime role in mitigating the effects of any emergency or disaster in the country by performing its mandate.

It has always been clear to the NFA that the Agency can only effectively carry out its mandate if the employees are disaster-resilient and equipped in handling emergencies within their own homes and most especially inside



ZDSBO Employees gather as Senior Fire Officer I Virgel L. Gillamac discusses correct way of using a fire extinguisher.

the NFA premises across the Region. That being said, NFA Region IX conducts a Fire Safety Lecture and Drill, and also joins the Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill to ensure employees are well-equipped in times of emergencies and calamities.



Mayor Molina (in white) hands over to OIC-Branch Manager Lumo the P2 Million Ceremonial Cheque for the PALLGU Premium for farmers in their locality.



Photo on the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Mayor Dalipe (seated, middle) together with (L-R after Mayor Dalipe) RM Machutes, ARM Valente and BM Velasquez.

SECOND TIME PALLGU PARTNERSHIPS

The NFA Region IX and the City Government of Zamboanga represented by City Mayor Hon. John M. Dalipe officially signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on the Palay Marketing Assistance Program for the Legislators and Local Government Unit (PALLGU) on February 28, 2024 at NFA Atrium, Zamboanga City.

The City Government of Zamboanga pledged a commendable amount of ₱10 million, granting a ₱5.00/kg premium to be added on top of the NFA's palay buying price. This marks the second PALLGU partnership between the City of Zamboanga and NFA, the first having been signed in early 2023. Due to the positive impact on local rice farmers, the City Government decided to continue the partnership with NFA Region IX this year.

Meanwhile, on March 8, 2024, at the Municipal Grounds in Kumalarang, OIC-Branch Manager Rogelio Antonio B. Lumo received from Mayor Ruel G. Molina a symbolic check for ₱2,000,000, which grants farmers a ₱5.00/kg premium to be added on top of NFA's palay buying price.

In 2023, Mayor Molina also entered into a PALLGU MOA with NFA Region IX, offering a premium of ₱3.00/kg. Following the positive feedback from Kumalarang's rice farmers, the Municipal Government decided to increase its support with a higher premium this year.

NFA Region IX also has two other PALLGU partnerships with the Provincial Governments of Zamboanga Sibugay and Zamboanga del Norte. / **THEA ANGELIE G. ALAVAR**

RICE DISTRIBUTION TO EL NIÑO VICTIMS

A total of 100 bags of NFA rice was released to the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Zamboanga City last, April 19, 2024.

The rice withdrawal took place at the GID Warehouse in San Roque, Zamboanga City, under the supervision of Acting Warehouse Supervisor Glen E. Catis.

This rice allocation is intended for relief assistance to be distributed to families affected by the adverse effects of the El Niño phenomenon in the city.

NFA Zambo City OIC-Branch Manager Joann B. Bernardo with the assistance of BSQAO Melky C. Bagalanon ensured that the rice was withdrawn on time so as not to hamper the relief operations in the area.

/ **JERALD B. BRIONES**

NFA RICE RELEASE TO THE DSWD

In performance of the NFA's mandate, the agency's branch office in Zamboanga City quickly responded to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) upon their request to withdraw another 1,000 bags of NFA rice on April 23, 2024 for the department's relief operations. This is intended for distribution to the victims of natural calamities in the region as well as for the stockpiling of food items and packs for their disaster response program, projects, and activities.

In February and June 2024, DSWD also withdrew a total of 2,000 bags for the same purpose. A total of 3,000 bags was released to the Department for the first half of 2024.

/ **JERALD B. BRIONES**

REGION 10

NFA APPRISES AGRI-FISHERIES COUNCIL ON OPERATIONS

Updates on the NFA's Palay Buying Price Bulletin and Buffer Stocking Status were presented to the highly organized body, the Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council (RAFC) in its 3rd Consultative Meeting at Harbor Lights Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City on May 22, 2024.

During the meeting, the resolutions supporting the modernization of NFA's post harvest facilities were moved and seconded.

Chairman of PAFC Lanao del Norte, Bulhing de la Cruz, said that they have issued a resolution that the recipients of government rice farming inputs to sell at least 10% of their harvest to the NFA and submitted the same to the mayors of rice producing municipalities.

The National Dairy Authority (NDA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) presented their respective programs for the agriculture and fishery sector. / **ZENELYN D. KWONG**

RESOLVING ADMINISTRATIVE CONCERNS



Regional and Branch Administrative Officers of Region 10 during the Administrative Officers' Meeting held in Cagayan de Oro City.

On June 4, 2024, the Administrative Officers of the National Food Authority (NFA) in Region 10 gathered at the NFA Regional Office in Cagayan de Oro City for an orientation, updates, and discussions of the administrative and the general services matters as well as latest developments per existing rules.

The meeting faved way for airing the issues and concerns of the offices relative to personnel matters for the corporate's manpower assets.

The meeting served as a venue and the opportunity for the administrative officers to widen their understanding on the administrative processes and required documents to process and address their concerns relative to their duties and responsibilities.

It aimed to improve coordination and collaboration among them to ensure the smooth operation of administrative functions within the office. / **ZENELYN D. KWONG**



KNOWLEDGE TEST

In a thrilling test of knowledge, NFA Region 10 Regional Accountant Christle Niño L. Ven and his spouse, Kristine Carmelle B. Ven, Accounts Analyst at the Misamis Oriental Branch Office, clinched 1st Place in the National Nutrition Council 10's Nutrition Month Quiz for Regional Line Agencies, held at De Luxe Hotel in Cagayan de Oro City on July 31,

The competition was fierce as six (6) duos vied for the top spot in the challenging 18-item quiz composed of fifteen (15) multiple choice items and three (3) fill in the blanks, right minus wrong difficult round.

The questions were all taken from the chapters of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition 2023 - 2028 which tested the participants' in-depth understanding of the six-year framework.

NFA participants enjoyed the knowledge test and anticipates to join a similar contest.

Representatives from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Commission on Population (CoP) placed 2nd and 3rd, respectively. / **ZENELYN D. KWONG**

NEWLY PROMOTED EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED



The National Food Authority (NFA) has announced the promotion of nine (9) employees from the three (3) Branch Offices of Region X on July 31, 2024.

The much awaited promotions, which were anticipated by employees, recognize the hard work and dedication of the agency's employees in Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental, and Lanao del Norte.

They have consistently demonstrated love for the work that they do and have made significant contributions to the NFA's mission of ensuring food security for the nation.

The newly promoted employees vow to render amore effective and outstanding services to the stakeholders and enhance their knowledge for the smooth operations of the agency.

"The welfare of our employees is one of our Administrator's thrusts. He believes in recognizing and rewarding the hard work of our colleagues," said Acting Regional Manager Rejorie R. Onde during the oath-taking ceremony. "We are proud to commend your achievements and are hopeful that you will continue to make valuable contributions to the NFA." / **ZENELYN D. KWONG**

SIMULTANEOUS EARTHQUAKE DRILL

The NFA Region 10 conducted a successful 1st and 2nd Quarter National Simultaneous Earthquake Drill on March 25 and June 28, 2024 respectively. All three (3) Branch Offices and the Regional Office actively participated, staging their commitment to preparedness and safety. The drill tested and refined existing protocols for earthquake response, ensuring that employees are well-versed in the "duck, cover, and hold" procedure. The training reinforces immediate actions in case of actual earthquake, to quickly duck down, seek cover under sturdy furniture, and hold on until the shaking subsides.

/ **SHELLANIE D. HAMPAC**

FARMERS BOOST PROFITS, USE NFA's FREE SUN DRYING PAVEMENT

Rice farmers from Baungon and Talakag, Bukidnon, along with those from Villanueva and Claveria, Misamis Oriental, have found a simple yet effective way to increase their earnings by taking advantage of the free sun-drying pavement provided by the National Food Authority (NFA) Misamis Oriental Branch Office in Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City.

Many of the rice farmers, access to affordable drying options can be a challenge, especially those with smaller farms. Renting drying equipment or finding space to dry palay at their own places is not always easy or cost-effective. The free sun-drying pavement at the NFA Baloy Office has become a lifeline, helping farmers save on drying costs while ensuring their palay is in top condition for sale.

The convenience of drying the palay at the NFA facility, and then immediately selling it, has made a big difference in their operations, allowing them to focus on what they do best: growing rice.

/ **SHELLANIE D. HAMPAC**



Local farmer in Misamis Oriental uses NFA drying pavement for its produce prior to selling their harvests to the NFA under the Pricing Scheme Program.

LANAO NORTE PALAY PROCUREMENT BREAKS RECORD (Highest in Five Years)

Palay procured in NFA Lanao del Norte Branch as of July 2024 has already reached around 1,263.8 MT or equivalent to 25,276 bags.

The most came from the Province of Misamis Occidental followed by Lanao del Norte. Although the latter is bigger in terms of production volume, it can be recalled that GID 3 Warehouse in Ozamiz City had resumed its operations earlier and just in time for the on-going harvest in some areas of the province, while GID II-Lala Warehouse, Lanao del Norte reopened just in June, past the peak of the harvest season. Iligan City ranks third in the order of palay sources since its local production is only minimal making GID I- Bara-as warehouse mainly a central hub for rice distribution during emergencies and calamities.

Lanao del Norte's procurement accomplishment from January to July, 2024 has reached its highest level since 2020. The increase, attributed to the implementation of the Price Range Scheme (PRICERS) in April, represents 789% higher compared to the same period in 2023.

The strategic design to set the NFA palay buying price at par with the prevailing farmgate prices have resulted in significant growth of palay reserves in NFA LNO. Noticeably, the PRICERS have boosted some farmers' financial capacity in terms of paying for delivery and labor costs as they would initiate to utilize their own manpower and logistics in the delivery of their palay to NFA. This made the NFA focus on picking up palay from other farmers whose resources are limited.

The second highest palay procurement record in 5 years was in 2021 bringing in 891.35 MT of palay to NFA which is equivalent to 17,827 bags.

The sustained attainment of procurement targets for CY 2024 has been made possible not only due to improved pricing scheme but of employees' dedication towards work and continued coordination with LGUs and Farmers' Organizations.

/ **SHELOU T. TACMO**

FARMER-SCHOLARS IN BUKIDNON LEARN NFA OPERATIONS



Farmer-scholars from the Roger and Neneng Agricultural Learning Center in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon gained valuable experience during a hands-on training session at NFA Aglayan Warehouse, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon on July 4, 2024.

The training is a component of the Pest and Nutrient Management Program under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund - Rice Extension Services Program of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

It provided the scholars with knowledge on various aspects of NFA operations.

This hands-on experience equipped the participants with the skills and knowledge for better rice production and distribution in the region. They learned about palay quality classification and quality control, and proper warehouse management and practices. They were also introduced to mechanical drying activity and NFA palay procurement process flow. GID Aglayan Warehouse Supervisor, Rodolfo Jun Roa, Jr., Quality Assurance Officer Krissiel Joice Pagaling-Boncales, and Mechanical Plant Operator Samboy Gumandol guided the scholars throughout the training, sharing their experiences and knowledge to the farmer-scholars.

/ **GLENN A. DE OTOY**



STOCK REPORTING: OIC - RM Rejorie R. Onde presented to Department of Agriculture (DA) the buffer stocking accomplishment of NFA during the DA Mid-year Assessment held in Malaybalay, Bukidnon on June 10, 2024.

REGION 11

REFRESHER COURSE ON PROCUREMENT (Strengthening NFA Operations)

The NFA Regional Office XI, under the leadership of Regional Manager Veralew DG. De Vera, along with Davao del Sur Branch Office headed by Branch Manager Janette M. Linao, successfully conducted a Refresher Course on NFA Operations and Quality Assurance for Procurement Teams and Allied Personnel at Marikit Hall, NFA Compound, Digos City, on July 30-31, 2024. The activity was held in preparation for the upcoming main harvest.

The two-day session aimed to strengthen and enhance employees' understanding of the Agency's operations, specifically regarding palay procurement and quality assurance. During the course, participants engaged in a comprehensive review of various topics presented by resource speakers from the Regional and Branch Offices.



The conduct of the refresher course demonstrated the agency's commitment to ensure that employees are well-equipped to carry out their respective roles in achieving its buffer stocking mandate.

With the implementation of the Price Range Scheme (PRICERS) program, the office looks forward to achieving its palay procurement target and securing additional supply for the government's calamity and disaster response. / **VICKY G. ARRIATE** / **ARIES D. CRUZ**

This year, the NFA Davao del Sur Branch Office has made remarkable progress in palay procurement, demonstrating its unwavering commitment to ensuring food security. Over 68,000 bags of palay have been successfully procured by the branch as of October, 2024, meeting an outstanding 74% of its yearly goal. This accomplishment highlights the effectiveness of the branch's strategies aimed at bolstering the government's rice inventory.

A significant factor contributing to this success has been the NFA Council's decision to raise the buying price for clean and dry palay to a range of ₱23.00 to ₱30.00, while fresh or wet palay is now priced between ₱17.00 and ₱23.00.

The branch has also undertaken an intensified procurement efforts. This includes extensive information dissemination and active participation in farmers' meetings and assemblies.

NFA DAVAO SUR COLLABS WITH STAKEHOLDERS Commitment to Food Security



The office has strengthened partnerships with local government units and various agencies to enhance coordination in procurement activities.

To express appreciation for the farmers, the NFA presented Certificates to farmer organizations that delivered palay this year. The FOs were recognized during NFA's anniversary celebration on September 26.

The Branch Office showed appreciation for the unwavering support and relentless efforts of our farmers. The management also extended its appreciation to the dedication of NFA employees who diligently work to secure more palay, beefing up the agency's inventory.

/ **VICKY G. ARRIATE** / **ARIES D. CRUZ**

DAVAO DEL NORTE RICE RELEASES

Earlier this year, the Davao Region was affected by heavy rains and rain-related hazards caused by the effects of the shear line and the Low Pressure Area (LPA).

As a result, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Valenzuela purchased NFA rice and distributed same to the identified families affected by heavy rains in the area.

/ **EDEN CHARITY M. POLICIOS**



The photograph shows the actual withdrawal of rice stocks by OCD and the LGU New Bataan at GID 1 Warehouse, under the accountability of Warehouse Supervisor Senen T. Carcosia.



Photos (above and below) show the in-warehouse palay procurement operations in the NFA Branch in Tagum City where actual weighing is regularly conducted.



Intensified Palay Procurement at NFA Davao Norte

The NFA in Davao del Norte continues to ensure that the government has rice buffer stocks in response to the needs of the Local Government Units (LGUs) and the other rice relief agencies for immediate rice distribution during calamities and emergencies.

Due to its intensified palay procurement, the NFA-Davao del Norte Branch Office visits the farmers and procures palay from the far-flung areas. The procurement teams extended service hours to cater to the clamour of the local farmers that the agency buy their harvests.

The palay procurement activities in the three warehouses located in Tagum City, Sto. Tomas both in Davao del Norte, and Compostela Warehouse in Davao de Oro ensure that the farmers avail of the NFA services to increase their income.

With the assistance of laborers and job orders, Davao del Norte Branch Office was able to procure 113% of its cumulative target or 142,353 bags from January to October 2024.

/ **EDEN CHARITY M. POLICIOS**

NFA Davao Oriental Strengthens Ties with NIA and IAs



Photos (above and below) show the delegates from the NFA and the Irrigators' Association while having a discussion on issues and concerns and the solutions on how to help the local farmers and the agriculture industry.



The NFA Davao Oriental Branch Office, led by Acting BM Jilidon G. Dalipe, together with Acting Supervising Grains Officer Jeanne Eliver D. Rebalde, and Engineer III Noah Herajie L. Togotan, had a courtesy call to Division Manager Gil G. Valdez of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA)-Irrigation Management Office (IMO), Davao Oriental.

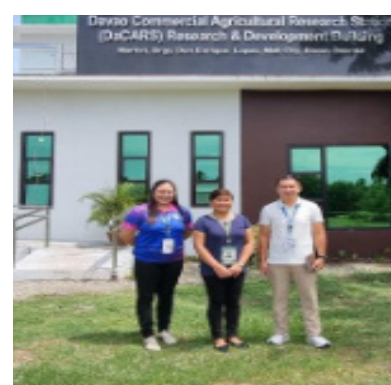
Following the courtesy call, the team attended the monthly meeting of the Irrigators Associations (IAs). The meeting was participated in by various IA presidents and representatives. It served as a platform for dialogue among them and the NFA employees.

During the meeting, Acting BM Dalipe presented the role that the IAs play in the NFA's buffer stocking mandate. "As we approach the peak of the harvest season in the Municipalities of Lupon, Banaybanay, and Governor Generoso, we urge the farmer organizations to fulfill their commitment to deliver their produce to the NFA," he said.

/ **MEIKO D. BARRIL**

DA LENDS HAULING TRUCK FOR NFA PALAY PROCUREMENT

The NFA Davao Oriental Branch Office extended its appreciation to the Department of Agriculture Field Office (DA RFO) XI led by Regional Executive Director Macario D. Gonzaga, for their invaluable support through the lending of a hauling truck. The request was facilitated by the Davao Commercial Agriculture Research Station (DaCARS) Mati City, under the leadership of Agricultural Center Chief III Enya C. Amahit.



The hauling truck provided by DA RFO XI was a timely assistance for the branch office, particularly as the province entered its peak harvest season. With the influx of palay deliveries in the buying stations, there is a need for efficient transportation to the terminal warehouses. The action

ensured that palay stocks were stored immediately to meet the quality standards set by the NFA.

RED Gonzaga of DA RFO XI welcomed the opportunity to assist the NFA in its initiatives and reaffirmed the agency's efforts anchored in maintaining the sufficient rice buffer stocks

sourced from Filipino farmers.

Acting Branch Manager Jilidon G. Dalipe emphasized that the timely provision of a truck means the branch office can ramp up its procurement efforts.

/ **MEIKO D. BARRIL**

The Provincial Farmers Action Council (PFAC) South Cotabato Chapter and the National Food Authority South Cotabato Branch Office convened for a meeting on April 11, 2024, at the NFA South Cotabato Branch Office.

The meeting was attended by PFAC officers and members, led by their President, Melky Delos Santos. NFA SCBO OIC Branch Manager Jeomar G. Fajartin and OIC ABM Von D. Bautista were also present.

The discussion focused on the successes and lessons learned from previous years, aimed at improving services and programs for farmers, particularly in the Province of South Cotabato.

FARMERS ACTION COUNCIL INDUCTION TO OFFICE



On the same day, the election for the new set of officers of PFAC South Cotabato Chapter for the year 2023-2026 was held. The new set of PFAC officers was inducted by NFA SCBO-OIC Branch Manager Jeomar G. Fajartin.

ARTA Compliance Inspection and 2024 CSM Briefing

The NFA in Region 12 participated in the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) and Clients Satisfaction Measurement (CSM) briefing headed by the Corporate Management and Planning Department (CPMSD). Ms. Richelle-An P. Esquilona, CPMSD focal person conducted an onsite inspection on ARTA compliances and 2024 CSM Briefing on June 11, 2024 at NFA Regional Office XII in Koronadal City.

Ms. Esquilona presented the NFA CSM 2023 results and accomplishments of Region XII and its Branch Offices and provided briefing in the conduct of the NFA 2024 CSM.



The Zero Backlog Program, Citizen's Charter, Public Assistance and Complaints Desk (PACD), and the ARTA campaign materials were among the topics presented and discussed. The outcome of the activity contributed significantly in attaining our targets in our Performance Scorecard. This activity was attended by the concerned Regional and South Cotabato employees.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

As part of the month long celebration, both women and men of NFA Rehiyon Dose joined the Purple Friday in celebration of the National Women's Month with a theme: "Lipunang Patas sa Bagong Pilipinas: Kakayahan ng Kababaihan, Patutunayan!". Purple, as internationally recognized as the color of women and gender equality, fosters and represents a supportive, empowering and inclusive environment.

The celebration serves as a tribute that highlights women's achievements and recognized women's contribution in our society.

NFA ATTENDS IRRIGATORS' ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY

The North Cotabato team of our agency attended the 21st Annual General Assembly of MLARIS Division A (BIMADU) Irrigators Association, Inc. on April 17, 2024. As one of the partners in providing efficient and quality services to palay farmers, President Gerry Malones invited the NFA to attend the said activity. The collaboration further strengthened partnership between NFA and the IAs.

In the event ABM Mellany M. Vento gave updates on NFA's program & activities particularly on the NFA's modernization, utilization of post-harvest facilities, and in-warehouse & mobile procurement processes.



Participants to the assembly listen as the speakers share their insights and commendations for the successful activities conducted by the IAs.

She commended the Irrigators Association for the conduct of several Ugnayan activities especially during their 21st General Assembly. She also appreciated the continuous support of the associations to all the programs, projects, and activities of the food agency.

The procurement activities at NFA North Cotabato were conducted on extended hours including weekends to cater to more palay deliveries from local farmers as NFA's buying price is steady at ₱29.00/kg (with PALLGU - clean & dry) and ₱23.00/kg (fresh/wet) for the periods between August 27 to September 2, 2024. The branch office fully utilizes post-harvest facilities available such as mechanical dryers to dry palay.

Likewise, the NFA's hauling trucks were efficiently utilized for the conduct of mobile procurement activities in the far flung areas of North Cotabato. Meanwhile, Quality Assurance Officers closely monitor the quality of palay procured from the local farmers.



PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES ON EXTENDED HOURS



On the 5th of September, Local Chief Executive of LGU Midsayap visited NFA Baguer Buying Station to determine further intervention to be extended by the LGU to help their farmer-constituents. He witnessed farmers from Midsayap deliver their palay and avail of additional premiums under the PALLGU program entered into by the NFA and LGU Midsayap.



NFA-NCR EMPLOYEE MAKES HISTORY with National Dangal ng Bayan Award



Bernardino Dabuet (3rd from right) received a Plaque of Appreciation from the Department of Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr. (center) and NFA Administrator Dr. Larry R. Lacson (2nd from right). Also present in the photo are the NFA-NCR officials.

In a historic first for the National Food Authority (NFA), Mr. Bernardino D. Dabuet, a Utility Worker II/Acting Truck Driver from the National Capital Region – East District Branch Office, has been honored with the prestigious National Dangal ng Bayan Award. This marks the first time in the agency's 52-year history, formerly known as the National Grains Authority (NGA), that such recognition has been bestowed.

Mr. Dabuet's journey to the national accolade began with his selection as the Civil Service Commission – National Capital Region's (CSC-NCR) Regional Winner. His outstanding performance as a public servant propelled him to the national level, where he advanced as a semi-finalist.

Following a rigorous selection process that included interviews and the submission of extensive documentation, The CSC officially named Mr. Dabuet one of the 2023 Outstanding Public Officials and Employees (Dangal ng Bayan Award). The award was personally presented by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. in a formal ceremony at Malacañang's Heroes Hall on February 14, 2024.

Recognized for his professionalism, innovation, and dedication to service, Mr. Dabuet earned the nickname "The Engineer" among his peers. His responsibilities go well beyond his formal job title, encompassing electrical work, carpentry, landscaping, plumbing, and supporting roles in forklift operation, machine maintenance, driving, and other tasks. His diverse skillset have helped the NFA reduce operational costs significantly.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements, Mr. Dabuet was honored once again during the NFA's 52nd Anniversary Celebration. His accomplishments was acknowledged by both the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the NFA family. During the event, the Achievers Award was presented to him by DA Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. and NFA Administrator Larry R. Lacson, further solidifying his legacy of excellence in public service.

The Dangal ng Bayan Award is conferred on individuals who perform extraordinary acts of public service and consistently

uphold the highest ethical standards, as outlined in Republic Act No. 6713, also known as the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees. Mr. Dabuet's achievement not only highlights his remarkable contributions but also underscores the NFA's unwavering commitment to excellence in public service. This award marks a proud milestone for the NFA and serves as a testament to the power of hard work, innovation, and dedication in advancing public service in the Philippines.

/ **RONALD PAUL GRACIA**

INSPECTION OF CONTAINER VANS AND VESSEL FOR RICE SHIPMENT

The NFA-NCR-Central District Branch Office recently conducted an inspection activity to ensure the quality and safety of rice intended for transport to NFA-Batanes. The inspection covered both the vessel and the container vans designated for loading 5,000 bags of rice.

The process aimed to verify compliance with technical specifications and safeguard the integrity of the rice during transport. The inspection team examined the cleanliness, condition, and suitability of the containers to prevent contamination or damage to the grains, ensuring it met the requirements for safe and efficient delivery to the remote island province of Batanes.

The inspection - a collective effort to ensure the smooth implementation of NFA's distribution initiatives was headed by RM Rodolfo W. Corpuz

By implementing stringent protocols, the NFA-NCR reinforces its mission to support food security and provide high-quality rice to Filipino households in times of emergencies and calamities.

/ **MARY LOVELY R. LEGASPI**

In a remarkable achievement, Mr. Ronald Paul S. Gracia, holder of Administrative Officer V of the National Food Authority-East District Branch Office in Antipolo City, was honored with the 2023 Maagap Hall of Fame Award. This milestone was celebrated during the NFA's 52nd Anniversary on September 26, 2024, marking a proud moment for the NFA-National Capital Region.

Mr. Gracia's journey to the Hall of Fame began with his first Maagap Award in 2021, followed by consecutive awards in 2022 and 2023, ultimately qualifying him for the prestigious Maagap Hall of Fame Award. He currently serves as the Warehouse Supervisor for Antipolo GID Warehouse 2, and the designated Branch Information Officer, balancing operational and administrative responsibilities with distinction.

The Maagap Hall of Fame Award is a coveted honor granted to NFA employees with Salary Grade 23 and below, who have consistently demonstrated exceptional work ethic and were awarded the Maagap Award for three (3) consecutive years.

To be eligible, nominees must have maintained perfect attendance for two straight rating periods, with no absences, tardiness, or undertime, while strictly adhering to scheduled break periods in the office.

NFA-NCR EMPLOYEE RECEIVES MAAGAP AWARD



Being a Maagap Awardee is not a task for the faint-hearted. Despite the temptations of long weekends, harsh weather conditions, or the desire for extra sleep, nominees must rise early, report to work, and execute their duties with precision and dedication. Maintaining a spotless attendance record requires careful use of leave credits, as even a short absence necessitates filing a Vacation or Sick Leave. While this allows awardees to accumulate 15 days each of vacation and sick leave annually, it also limits their ability to enjoy extended vacations, often resulting in quick getaways to ensure their punctual return to work.

Despite these challenges, the Maagap Awardee stands as a shining example of a devoted public servant—committed to upholding the mission of the National Food Authority and dedicated to serving the Filipino people. Mr. Gracia's unwavering commitment to his role has earned him this esteemed recognition, reflecting the very essence of what it means to be a reliable and passionate public servant.

His accomplishment raises the bar for excellence at NFA-NCR, inspiring others to uphold dedication and integrity in public service.

NFA-NCR EMPLOYEE RECEIVES MAAGAP AWARD



Mr. Jonald R. Mansit, Acting Warehouse Assistant at Antipolo GID Warehouse 2, has proudly secured his second consecutive Maagap Award. He first earned this prestigious accolade in 2022 and impressively followed it with another award in 2023.

Aiming to become the second Maagap Hall of Fame Awardee for NFA-NCR, he continues to demonstrate exceptional dedication. Maintaining a Very Satisfactory performance rating and meeting all other requirements, he remains on track for this distinguished honor.

With expertise in IT, he is the go-to person for troubleshooting computers and CCTVs, showcasing his versatility and effectiveness.

The KNP Kick Off

On November 26, 2024, the Kadiwa ng Pangulo (KNP) Expo 2024, a flagship initiative of the Marcos administration, kicked off at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City. The event aims to empower Filipino farmers and fisherfolk, boost their incomes, and ensure affordable, high-quality food for consumers.

Spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture-Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (DA-AMAS), the expo was formally opened by Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr., who led the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The event was witnessed by the heads of collaborating agencies, including the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Presidential Communications Office (PCO), and Presidential Management Staff (PMS).

NFA Hour and Culinary Exposition

The KNP Expo 2024 at the PICC in Pasay City continued into its second day featuring a variety of engaging activities. One of the highlights was a discussion led by Ms. Carolina B. Manzano, NFA Public Relations Officer V, who shared the agency's new mandate, its origins, and its unwavering commitment to serving the Filipino people.

Another event was the cooking demonstration, where NCR Branch Office employees namely: Jocelyn Joaquin, Mary Lovely R. Legaspi, Dally Bernal, and Emy dela Cruz showcased the preparation of NCR's very own VeriMe - Veggie Rice Meal.

FIRST EVER KADIWA NG PANGULO EXPOSITION



Ribbon cutting ceremony with DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr. and the cooperators of Kadiwa ng Pangulo held at PICC, Pasay City.



A contestant answers the question during the Memory Game held after a talk about the food agency during "The NFA Hour".



NCR employees received a certificate of commendation for their participation in the Kusina ng Kadiwa. The NCR kitchen experts share "Veri Me"- a nutri-quick cook meal with NFA rice as the main ingredient.

Culmination

The NFA NCR and Central Office personnel manned the agency's institutional booth from November 26-28, 2024. The booth showcased NFA's vision, mandate, and mission. A taste test of locally procured rice and answer to queries from stakeholders during the 3-day run of the event. / **JOSELINE MARFIL**

BARRM

A BEACON OF HOPE The Palay Procurement at BARRM



Farmers deliver their palay harvests to the NFA warehouse in BARRM.



Actual weighing of palay deliveries in NFA warehouse.



The facets of procurement in BARRM: Mobile and in warehouse in any weather condition.

The palay procurement program in the BARMM was more than just a government initiative; it was a beacon of hope, a symbol of stability for farmers, and a crucial step towards ensuring food security for the nation. It was a testament to the government's commitment to supporting the agricultural sector and empowering farmers to thrive. As the sun set over the fields of the BARMM Region, casting long shadows across the land, a new dawn of prosperity seemed to break, fuelled by the promise of a brighter future – *Tiyak ang Bigas, Panatag Ang Bukas.*

/ ROSELIE V. TUTOR

The sun shone down on the Maguindanao, Basilan, and Lanao del Sur rice fields, casting its familiar warmth to the farmers as they harvested their crops.

This year, a new sense of optimism blossomed alongside the rice stalks, thanks to the initiative of the National Food Authority (NFA), which promised stability and fair compensation for the farmers' hard work.

For years, farmers in the BARMM had faced the uncertainty of fluctuating market prices, leaving their livelihoods vulnerable to financial hardships. The palay procurement program, implemented by the NFA, offered the much-needed solution. It provided a guaranteed market for their harvests, ensuring a fair price and a stable income, reducing the anxieties associated with unpredictable market conditions.

As farmers delivered their palay to designated collection points, relief washed over them. They could now focus on improving their farming practices, knowing their efforts would be rewarded.

The impact of the palay procurement program extended beyond the individual farmer. It ensured a buffer stock for the nation, and preventing drastic fluctuations that could threaten the food security that we ensure for the Filipino people. The procured palay replenished the NFA's buffer stock, a vital safety net in times of emergencies, crises or natural disasters as well as in sustaining the disaster relief program of our government.

However, the journey wasn't without its challenges such as limited storage capacity, logistical issues, and the need for continuous monitoring and evaluation presented hurdles. However, the government was actively addressing these challenges by expanding storage facilities, improving and providing logistics.

On November 13-14, 2024, National Food Authority Administrator Larry R. Lacson, embarked on a mission to Tawi-Tawi, aiming to strengthen community partnerships and foster economic growth in the region.

Accompanied by a delegation including Assistant Administrator Veralew DG. De Vera, Executive Assistant Atty. Ma. Lucila Margarita P. Mangrobang, NFA Region XIV Regional Manager Angelica M. Pellien, NFA Basulta OIC BM Razel A. Tupay, and other NFA executives and staff, Administrator Lacson immersed in the heart of Tawi-Tawi's economic activities.

The visit began with a tour at the bustling Bongao Public Market, where Administrator Lacson engaged with local entrepreneurs, recognizing their dedication to community development. This firsthand experience allowed him to understand the local market dynamics and identify potential areas for collaboration.

Following the market visit, Administrator Lacson inspected the Tawi-Tawi GID Warehouse in Bongao, likely to assess its capacity and efficiency in supporting the NFA's affordable rice program. This inspection highlighted the agency's commitment to ensuring the program's effectiveness in reaching the province's residents.

The visit culminated with a fruitful meeting with Governor Yshmael "Mang" I. Sali and Mayor Jimuel S. Que. The meetings focused on regional economic development strategies and the NFA's affordable rice program.

Administrator Lacson emphasized the importance of swift rice distribution, particularly to remote areas, and received assurances of support from both the Governor and Mayor. This collaborative effort signifies a shared commitment to ensuring food security and accessibility for all residents of Tawi-Tawi.

A PARTNERSHIP OF PROGRESS IN TAWI-TAWI Boosting Economic Programs



A Visit to Governor Yshmael "Mang" I. Sali of Tawi-tawi where talk on regional economic development for the local residents took place.



A visit to Honorable Jimuel S. Que., Mayor Municipality of Bongao with Assistant Administrator Veralew De Vera and some NFA officials.



Market visit: Deeper understanding of the local market.

■ C A R A G A

FARMERS' COUNCIL ELECTION OF OFFICERS



Oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected RFAC officers, administered by Acting RM Rejorie R. Onde (right).

The Regional Farmers' Action Council (RFAC) of Caraga Region conducted its 2nd Quarterly Meeting and Election of Officers for the CY 2024-2026 on June 7, 2024 at the NFA Caraga Regional Office, Butuan City.

NFA Caraga OIC-Regional Manager, Rejorie R. Onde delivered an inspiring message where she highlighted that the Regional Farmers' Action Council (RFAC) shall be the consultative body of the various Farmer's Organizations (FOs) in the Caraga Region.

The RFAC functions as the linkage between the national and the provincial chapters of their organization on the data gathering, information dissemination, and advocacy activities for the benefit of the farmers. Further, OIC Onde apprised the body on the latest NFA Palay Procurement Program updates. Farmer leaders interacted enthusiastically and expressed their continued support for the NFA's mandate to secure buffer stocks for the Caraga Region.

OIC Onde administered the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected RFAC officers. / **LORENA DANDAN**

NFA CARAGA WITNESSED MOA SIGNING

On behalf of the NFA OIC-Regional Manager, Rejorie R. Onde, Acting Regional Information Officer Lorena G. Dandan, and GOO I Charlie M. Cagampang joined the Ceremonial Turnover of the Regional Warehouse and Disaster Response Operation Center on May 14, 2024 at Barangay Tiniwisan, Butuan City, Agusan del Norte.

The significant event marks the formal recognition of the transfer of responsibility and authority from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office Caraga. It also serves as a central hub for disaster operations and a storage facility for food and non-food items essential for families affected by calamities. The ceremony was led by Asst. Regional Director for Operations Jean Paul S. Parajes.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the President of the Volunteer Mobilization Program (Rotary Club of Central San Francisco and Delta Fraternity and Sorority International of San Francisco, Agusan del Sur) and the Memorandum of Agreement with the National Food Authority for relief goods prepositioning.



NFA, DSWD, and DPWH Caraga Officials and other partner agencies from private sectors pose for a souvenir photo during the regional warehouse meet to provide hub during disaster and calamity operations.

The NFA Caraga Region, headed by Acting Regional Manager Rejoice R. Onde conducted the Training-Workshop on the Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines (HGDG): Project Implementation, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (PIMME) held on July 17-18, 2024 at Big Daddy Hotel and Convention Center, Butuan City.

The Resource Person, Edson B. Alijo from the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), shared his expertise and imparted the HGDG tool used to assess the gender-responsiveness of major programs and projects of government agencies. Eighteen (18) employees from the Regional Office, Surigao del Sur Office, and Agusan del Branch Office actively participated in the various workshops.

The participants also showed interest and enthusiasm to the training-workshop.

TRAINING WORKSHOP ON THE HARMONIZED GAD GUIDELINES: PIMME CHECKLIST



Photo shows participants, joined by the guests and speakers, to the training-workshop on Harmonized Gender and Development (HGDG) guidelines.

The certificates of participation were awarded after the sessions and the event was successfully and fruitfully concluded. Acting Supervising Administrative Officer Amielou Jane G. Mendoza gave her closing message. / **LORENA DANDAN**

NFA CARAGA'S CELEBRATION OF THE NFA'S 52nd ANNIVERSARY



ZUMBA Dance spearheaded by RM Lydia I. Arsad (center wearing hijab) together with the NFA Caraga Region staff and employees during the Joint NFA 52nd Anniversary Celebration.

The NFA Caraga Region, spearheaded by Acting Regional Manager Lydia I. Arsad conducted a Joint 52nd NFA Anniversary Celebration at the GID Km.10, Surigao City.

The vibrant and festive celebration highlighted the organization's commitment to the spirit of good camaraderie. The event started with high-energy activities like Zumba, promoting health and wellness among participants and capped with a festive Gala Night in the evening.

A short program followed where RM Lydia I. Arsad delivered her anniversary message.

Fun games were also part of the celebration, fostering teamwork and joy among staff and employees from the Agusan del Sur Branch Office, led by OIC-Branch Manager Hyde Beth M. Pascual, and the Surigao del Sur Branch Office, headed by OIC-BM Alvin V. Balatero as well. The Regional officials and employees were also present.

The event emphasized the lively activities and the deeper meaning of the celebration in honor of the NFA's legacy and future aspirations, celebrating the organization's rich history and contributions to the nation's food security over the past five decades. / **LORENA DANDAN**

HIGHLIGHTS OF NFA'S 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NFA INVENTORY

As of December 31, 2024, the NFA rice stock inventory is at 5,697,094 bags of 50 kilograms (Total Expected Milled Rice Inventory or TEMRI) or 284,855 metric tons with a 95% accomplishment rate based of the required 300,000 MT or 6,000,000 bag optimal level of rice buffer stock. The government rice reserve being held by NFA is only part of the total domestic rice stock inventory of the entire country.

PALAY PROCUREMENT

The NFA, as of December 31, 2024, procured a total of 8,749,888 bags or 437,494.40 metric tons of of palay, representing 88.4% accomplishment rate of the CY 2024's palay procurement target of 9,900,000 bags or 495,000 metric tons. This is 7,181,509 (359,075.45 MT) or 558% higher than CY 2023 actual palay procurement of 1,568,379 bags (78,418.95 MT). The record-high procurement for CY 2024 was due to the implementation of the NFA Council approved Price Range Scheme (PRICERS) for palay procurement program. This scheme provides palay farmers with high government buying price set at competitive level, which is at par of above the prevailing ex-farm price. The Agency procured palay from local farmers nationwide, mostly from Central Luzon, Cagayan Valley, Southern Tagalog, Ilocos Region, and Western Visayas.

DISTRIBUTION OF MILLED RICE

As of December 31, 2024, the NFA released a total of 779,101 bags of 50 kg rice (38,955.05 MT) to the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Local Government Units (LGUs), Legislators, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) and other government agencies.



Photo:
MARY LOVELY R. LEGASPI
NFA-NCR-CDBO

NFA-Coop On the Go

The National Food Authority Multi-Purpose Cooperative Incorporated (NFA-MPCI) conducted a committee outreach at Brgy. Vasra in Quezon City on December 3, 2024.

NFA-MPCI Vice-chairperson and Training and Education Committee Head, Abegail Villacorta, along with the Coop staff, shared some goodies and served lugaw (porridge) with eggs to an estimate of 100 residents of Brgy. Vasra. They were assisted by the barangay officials and the daycare teachers of the locality. The activity is part of the cooperative's social effort to help the community, uplift their flight, and lead them to resiliency. This year, the Coop sent cash donations to some families affected by the recent super typhoons and calamities in Regions I to V.

The NFA-MPCI yearly conducts an outreach program as part of its community development pledge. For the past three decades, the Coop has been helping persons with disabilities, identified senior citizen groups, and calamity victims through distributing rice and basic food commodities and sending cash donations.

Recently, the NFA MPC, headed by Chairperson Dr. Rafael V. Marasigan, conducted pre-strategic planning with the officers of the cooperative to organize its plans, programs, and activities for 2025. An virtual training on financial literacy and Coop updates for all the officers and members of NFA-MPC will be held.

The Coop management thanked the NFA employees and their family for the support to all its undertakings. The Coop welcomes application for membership. For more information about the NFA-MPCI, send email to nfamultipurposecooperative@yahoo.com.

NFA-MPCI: Towards Saving Consciousness and Economic Growth for a Better Life



The NFA-MPCI is an inspiring story of faith and belief in one's capacity to improve life and prosper in an environment characterized by a complicated interplay of needs and wants. Such a story spans 33 years now, beginning November 15, 1991 when a group of well-meaning friends and colleagues who believe in the spirit of cooperativism as a surefire formula to success in this rapidly changing world, organized NFA MPC as an employees' cooperative at the NFA Central Office.

This first batch of leaders decided and declared "there's no turning back." The path was cleared to welcome a new phase and a distinct place in the NFA corporate world. The idea of financial freedom through saving was easily captured as the primary goal or the driving force behind the establishment of a cooperative entity.

In 1992, the NFA MPC was registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA). In 1998, after six years of operation, NFA MPC had 78 active co-owners/members, more than ₱200,000.00 total assets and net income of ₱78,000.00. It was re-registered with the CDA on December 7, 2009 for the issuance of New Certificate of Registration under Article 144 of R.A. 9520 otherwise known as the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008.

Succeeding periods in its history have seen NFA MPC's viability and sustainability which was described and recognized in the 2023 Audited Financial Statements. As of December 31, 2023, the cooperative had 1,162 co-owners/members in good standing; with a total asset of P88.9M; a paid-up capital of P53.8M; and a net surplus of P1.9M with a total loan portfolio of P45M.

Adapting to the changing financial and economic trends and maximizing profitability, NFA MPC has invested its funds in shares of stocks, treasury bonds and time deposits to various institutions. Alongside investments, NFA MPC has strived to be true and faithful to its vision to provide excellent products and services towards stability and sustainability; to create opportunities for a better life.

Today, NFA MPC boasts an enviable status as a multi-awarded cooperative which affirm its influential and strong leadership in the industry, backed up and inspired by its 1,084 co-owners/members who continue to patronize and enjoy loan products, benefits and services that have been the result of constant forward planning or foresight matched by persistence, determination, dedication and commitment of its management.

NFA Provident: A Year of Growth and Impact



From left to right: NFAPFI Chairperson and Acting Assistant Administrator for Finance and Administration Veralew de Vera, NFA Administrator Larry R. Lacson (seated), Board of Trustee (BOT) Member Maria Lewina Tolentino, CEO Jacquelyn Arino, BOT Member Miguel S. Tecson.

The entire NFAPFI management takes pride in celebrating a year of remarkable achievements and meaningful progress. Guided by our mission to serve and uplift our members, we have strengthened our initiatives, expanded opportunities, and reinforced our commitment to fostering a supportive and empowered community.

Empowering Members Through Financial Growth

A key highlight for the year was delivering on our promise to provide annual dividends to our members, a testament to our sound financial stewardship. Looking ahead to 2025, we're excited to offer expanded loan programs to better cater to the diverse needs of our members, providing them with greater financial support to achieve their aspirations.

Advocacy and Engagement Initiatives

In collaboration with other NFAPFI Committees, we are proud to have successfully conducted our first-ever online election this year—a groundbreaking milestone for our organization. With 91% of our members casting their votes online, this initiative ensured clear and consistent communication through well-crafted campaign materials through our official social media platform.

The success of this digital transition highlights our commitment to innovation and member engagement, keeping our stakeholders well-informed and actively involved throughout the process. Our events this year were brought to life with the help of the Advocacy Committee's outstanding event coverage. From capturing key moments to creating and sharing videos, we maintained a strong connection with our members through engaging media content.

Building a Promising 2025

As we set our sights on 2025, NFAPFI management is committed to expanding members' benefits and fostering innovation. Beyond financial programs, we are introducing initiatives to enhance efficiency and member engagement.


Gratitude cum Collaboration

These achievements were made possible without the collective effort and support of our dedicated board of trustees, management team, committee members, and, most importantly, our valued members. The NFAPFI remains steadfast in its mission to provide opportunities and foster growth, rooted in collaboration and trust. We call on all stakeholders to join us in driving our shared vision for a stronger, more empowered NFAPFI community. Together, we can make 2025 a year of even greater impact and success.

/ PAULO JACINTO



ANNIVERSARY




Tiyak ang Bigas, Panatag ang Bukas!

Ang National Food Authority (NFA), ay ilalim ng Batas Republika 11203, ay naatasan na siguruhin ang pagkain ng ating bansa sa pamamagitan ng pag-iimbak ng sapat na palay na binili mula sa lokal na mga magsasaka na gigilingin at ipapamahagi sa panahon ng kalamidad at emergency.

Ngayong taong 2024 at sa mga susunod na taon, ang NFA ay nagsusulong ng mga programa at proyekto upang matugunan ang hamon ng kaniyang mandato sa pamamagitan ng pagpapatupad ng mga programa ng administrasyon ni Pang. Bongbong Marcos tungo sa modernisasyon ng agrikultura. Ito ay malaking tulong sa ahensiya sa pagkamit nito ng kanyang adhikain na may sapat na pagkain sa hapag ng bawat Pilipino.

Patuloy ang implementasyon ng Price Range Scheme o PRICERS kung saan itinaas ang presyo sa pagbili ng palay upang maitaas ang kita ng bawat magsasakang Pilipino at masiguro na may sapat na buffer stock sa mga bodega ng ahensiya.

Ang lahat ng ito, kasabay ng iba pang mga programang ng NFA, ng Department of Agriculture, at ng Pangulong BBM, ay itinataguyod bilang kahandaan tungo sa matatag na agrikultura sa Bagong Pilipinas *"Tiyak ang Bigas ug Bansa, Panatag ang Bukas ug Bawat Mamamayang Pilipino."*



Layout Design: Michael A. Legaspi



NFA:

Five Decades plus Two and Beyond

"Bigyan natin ang bansa ng panatag na bukas sa pamamagitan ng pagtitiyak na meron tayong sapat na bigas sa bawat bodega ng NFA. Bahagi ang NFA ng buhay natin, ngayon naman gawin nating bahagi ng bawat Pilipino ang NFA sa pamamagitan ng pagkakaroon ng magandang plano at karamatang aksyon upang magampanan ang ating mandato."

LARRY R. LACSON, PhD
NFA Administrator

The Moving Forward Standpoints

- MANPOWER PLACEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL EMPLOYEES
Placement of employees and officials based on standards of the Civil Service Commission and concerned authorities.
Continuous capacity building towards executive positions.
- FINANCIAL VIABILITY AS A CORPORATE ENTITY**
Creation of NFA pricing framework to recover operational costs with conscious effort to rice affordability.
Formulate strategic regional marketing plans with great impact at the national level.
Promote cost effectiveness through less movement of stocks.
- MASAGANA AGRI-FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION (MAFIM)**
100% compliant to NFA's buffer stocking mandate via establishment of sufficient and complete modern facilities strategically positioned nationwide.
- CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**
Ready stocks in all warehouses.
Quick response to rice requirements of the government relief giving institutions and LGUs.



Layout Design: Michael A. Legaspi



RY Highlights

September 26, 2024





Gintong Butil ng Palay

Sa kanyang mga kamay na nagtanim ng mga punla
Matinding sikat ng araw di niya kinabahala
Di alintanang putik kum'lapol sa payak n'yang kasuotan
Maging sa kalyong kamay at paa pati sakit ng katawan.

Binhing gintong butil unti-unti ngang sumilay
Sa lawak ng lupain isa-isang nabuhay
At nang lumaon ay naging luntiang kapaligiran
Tanawing kaaya-aya sa mata'y mamamasdan.

Ngunit mga pagsubok di maiwawaglit
Pagkat ang panahon ay papalit-palit
Bagyo man o sakuna maninirang pilit
Pati mga ibon o mga daga sa paligid.

Subalit tila sa iyo ay walang pangamba
Sapagkat sila nga sa iyo ay umaasa
Dahil kung wala ka sa isang hapag-kainan
Ramdam na tunay ngang may kulang ang isang handaan.

Araw ay dumatal naging masaganang bunga
Ang bawat kamay ay handang-handang anihin ka
Dasal at pasasalamat sa Diyos na Lumikha
Ikaw sa amin nga ay siyang biyayang pag-asa.

Munting pagpupugay sa iyo nga ay inaalay
Dahil itong Nasyon isa ka sa bumubuhay
Tunay ngang giginhawa ang buhay ng Bayang Pilipinas
Sa Sapat na Palay at Bigas, Tiyak Panatag ang Bukas.

- Christopher T. Patdo