

Bubalus



Quarterly Newsletter of the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center

Vol. 7 No. 4 • 2024



FEATURE

Meet Dalisay, Matipuno—the future of premium carabao’s milk, meat

By **Ronaline Canute**

It isn't adequate to say that a perfect piece of carabao's meat is

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NCC celebrates decade of industry sharing, highlights turnover to NCISA

By **France Joseph Pascual**

The Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) has officially transferred the management of the National Carabao Conference (NCC) to the National Carabao Industry Stakeholders Association (NCISA) in celebration of its 10th anniversary at Don Alejandro

Quirolgico, Caoayan, Ilocos Sur, on November 13 to 15.

With the theme “Laking NCC Ako! ‘Sang Dekada ng Matatag at Sama-samang Tagumpay,” 60 cooperatives all over the country gathered for the annual event

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About the cover

Themed "Laking NCC Ako! 'Sang Dekada ng Matatag at Sama-samang Tagumpay," the NCC's 10th year of celebration is marked with its decade-long service to the success of the carabao industry. This has been a momentous event for the National Carabao Conference as its management is officially transferred to the National Carabao Industry Stakeholders Association.



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DA-PCC at DMMMSU

DA-PCC marks milestone carabao dev't project in home of the Hundred Islands

By **Maximo Peralta Jr.**

The Alaminos City Carabao Raisers Association (ACCRA) of San Roque, Alaminos City, Pangasinan received 25 head of dairy carabaos under the Carabao-based Business Improvement Network (CBIN) project on November 27, 2024.

City Mayor Arth Bryan Celeste expressed his gratitude that their city was chosen as the recipient of the program. The mayor noted that carapreneurship, the livelihood that positively changed the lives of farmers and stakeholders, is the same livelihood that will also transform the lives of Pangasinan dairy farmers.

"May pera sa pagkakalabawan at sana ay malaki ang maitulong ng proyekto sa inyo," Mayor Celeste said.

In a video message, Senator Cynthia Villar, chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform, highlighted the benefits of carabao's milk.

"Kilala ng mataas ang sustansya ng gatas ng kalabaw at natutuwa ako na ang programang ito ay nagbibigay ng mas magandang nutrisyon sa ating kabataan gayundin ang tuloy-tuloy na kita sa ating mga magsasaka," she said.

In 2023, DA-PCC at Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU) received PHP10 million for the implementation of the Carabao Development Program, and Alaminos City was chosen as one of the recipients because of the successful performance of its village-based artificial insemination technicians (VBAITs) and the strong support and leadership of the local chief executive.



"One of its exemplary VBAITs, Olivia Palazo, was even honored as Huwarang Juana for her outstanding performance during the 9th National Carabao Conference. Upon learning this, the local chief executive instantly gave his buy-in for the program," said Paul Andrew Texon, head of operations of DA-PCC at DMMMSU.

The city government of Alaminos committed to providing a prime lot for the processing and marketing outlet, which will be in Lucap, Alaminos City, Pangasinan, the gateway to the hundred islands. City Veterinarian Dr. Ronald Abara has also committed to providing an additional PHP1 million yearly budget to support the project.

"Ang Lucap ay ang sentro ng ating turismo. Kaya mas lalong pinangangalagaan ang hundred islands para kapag naitayo na ang ating Dairy Box, mas marami kayong customers, mas marami kayong benta," Mayor Celeste said as he also urged the beneficiaries to be faithful stewards of the project.


Olivia Palazo, president of the ACCRA, accepted the opportunity and encouraged her members to excel in the carabao business through hardwork, perseverance, and dedication.

"Huwag nating sayangin ang oportunidad na ibinigay sa atin, ito ang magiging hanapbuhay natin na pwedeng ipamana sa ating mga anak," Olivia said.

The construction of the Dairy Box outlet is expected to start early next year.

DA-PCC at DMMMSU provided dairy buffalo production and management training to ACCRA on October 16-18, 2024. The members of the association also went on a farm tour in Bantog, Asingan, Pangasinan for them to better understand the business that they will be entering into.

Senator Villar initiated and funded the CBIN project in 2019, based on the concept of a complete dairy enterprise value chain from production to processing to marketing.

Among the other key officials present during the activity were Ruby Pungutan, the regional coordinator of Senator Cynthia Villar's office, Dr. Arcely Robeniol, the provincial veterinarian of Pangasinan, Pangasinan's 1st District representative Arthur F. Celeste, and City Vice Mayor Jan Marrionne Fontelera. 

Bubalus is a quarterly publication published by the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) that gives its readers updates and inspiring stories happening in the carabao industry.

Email us your comments, feedback, and suggestions at kmd@pcc.gov.ph or mail them to: The Editor, Bubalus Newsletter, Knowledge Management Division, Philippine Carabao Center National Headquarters and Gene Pool, Science City of Muñoz, 3120 Nueva Ecija. You may also call us at (044) 456 0731 loc 202.

NCC celebrates decade of industry sharing...

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hosted by Nueva Segovia Consortium of Cooperatives (NSCC) in partnership with DA-PCC at Mariano Marcos State University (DA-PCC at MMSU).

Dr. Divina Quemi, CEO of NSCC, welcomed the delegates and emphasized the crucial role of cooperatives in the collective success of the carabao industry. She highlighted the ongoing opportunities and interventions provided by DA-PCC and its partner agencies to provide farmers with abundant harvests and higher incomes.

“Let this event serve as an opportunity to reaffirm old partnerships and

forge new ones in our pursuit of the common good while strengthening our commitment to sustainability in the dairy industry,” Dr. Quemi said.

DA-PCC’s Executive Director III Dr. Liza G. Battad expressed her gratitude for the achievements, sacrifices, and dedication of everyone involved in the carabao industry over the past decade. “Salamat sa tiwala ninyo sa amin [sa DA-PCC]. Ang tagumpay namin ay kayo, dahil kayo ang aming inspirasyon. Huwag kayong mag-alala, habang may PCC, may NCC,” she said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Joel Atendido, the president of NCISA and general

manager of the Llano Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative, encouraged every cooperative to collaborate and support small cooperatives in increasing their income.

To date, there are 40 member cooperatives of NCISA, a newly formed group that aims to advocate for the interests, legislative measures, and welfare of carabao entrepreneurs throughout the Philippines.

The three-day conference included various activities such as the Governor’s Night, Farmers Got Talent, entrustment of dairy animals to the Suyo Multipurpose Cooperative under the expanded ALAB Karbawan Project, and plenary sessions covering different topics. Dr. Caro B. Salces, ALAB Karbawan 2019-2021 CBIN/CCDP Milestones; Dr. Edwin C. Atabay, Technologies and Innovations in Livestock Reproduction; Dr. Joel Bagain Lopez, CESO IV, Kwentong Selebrasyon at Pasasalamat sa Milk Feeding Program; and Dr. Nathaniel Alibuyog, Pagkilala’t Pagpupugayn Maalab na Pagkakalabawan Isabuhay.

The cooperatives also participated in a

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DA-PCC at VSU

Coconut farmers in Leyte join carabao program

By Sunshine Sabidalas

The Hibunawan Integrated Farmer’s Association (HIFA), a farmer’s group assisted by the DA-Philippine Carabao Center at Visayas State University (DA-PCC at VSU), received 50 head of dairy buffaloes during a ceremonial turnover on October 15, 2024, in Brgy. Maganhan, Baybay City, Leyte.

The initiative was part of the government’s ongoing effort to support sustainable agriculture by providing high-yielding breeds of dairy animals, which can significantly increase milk production and farmers’ income.

Baybay City Mayor Jose Carlos L. Cari shared his experiences with carabao raising and expressed his appreciation for the efforts of DA-PCC, PCA, and other partner agencies in buffalo entrustment.

Mayor Cari emphasized that the main purpose of this project is to enhance the living standards of the local farmers. He also highlighted the importance of the nutrition program, which has a big role in providing nutritious food options for families and communities. The mayor assured his full support for the

Coconut Carabao Development Project (CCDP).

DA-PCC at VSU Center Director Francisco G. Gabunada Jr. expressed his gratitude to the local government of Baybay, PCA, and Senator Cynthia A. Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform. He provided an overview of the CCDP, explaining that the entrustment of dairy animals is a strategic approach aimed at enhancing livelihood, particularly among

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DA-PCC at CLSU

DA-PCC entrusts pregnant buffaloes to MBIA cooperative

By Camilla Jane Soliman



Despite the heavy rains brought about by Typhoon Kristine, the DA -Philippine Carabao Center at Central Luzon State University (DA-PCC at CLSU) conducted a ceremonial entrustment of 22 pregnant buffaloes and one calf to Mulawin Bata Irrigators Association, Inc. (MBIA) as part of the initiative facilitated by Sen. Cynthia A. Villar’s Dairy Herd Build-up Project (DHBP), on October 23, 2024, in Baliwag, Bulacan.


Elenita Hernandez from the Municipal Agriculture Office of Baliwag, Bulacan, expressed her joy that the farmers finally received their buffaloes and thanked DA-PCC at CLSU for the project. She hopes the farmers will take full responsibility in rearing the buffaloes and that the association will greatly benefit from this initiative.

Dr. Reinalyn Quinaquin, Veterinarian I of the City Agriculture Office of Baliwag, Bulacan, emphasized that the Provincial Veterinary Office is ready to assist farmers in maintaining the health of the buffaloes. She added that the buffaloes will provide an additional source of income to support the farmers’ daily lives.

Rebecca Ruby Gabriel, head of the DA-PCC at CLSU Carabao-based Enterprise Development program, emphasized the importance of cooperation in her message.

“Sana maging maayos ang inyong pag-aalaga sa mga kalabaw dahil kung hindi sa kooperasyon ng Local Government Unit at DA-PCC at CLSU at sa inyo na aming farmer partners ay hindi ito magiging matagumpay. Dito nagsisimula ang ating partnership at dito namin kayo masusubukan. Ang inyong magiging responsibilidad ay ‘di dito natatapos kundi nagsisimula pa lamang,” she said.

In his response, Erwin Malacca, chairperson of the MBIA, expressed his gratitude to DA-PCC at CLSU for its trust and confidence to the association. He also urged his fellow members to take excellent care of the buffaloes and to persevere until they are reaping the benefits of their hardwork and commitment to the project.

Also in attendance was John Christian Carreon, who represented Sen. Cynthia A. Villar. The event was organized in collaboration with the city government of Baliwag. 

DA-PCC at DMMMSU

Carapreneurship gains ground in Pangasinan via DSWD-SLP

By Maximo Peralta Jr.

The Arya Sta. Maria Dairy SLP Association finally embarked on its journey in carapreneurship following the inauguration and blessing of its carabao housing facility and entrustment of six buffaloes by the Department of Social Welfare and Development-Sustainable Livelihood Program (DSWD-SLP), Local Government Unit of Sta. Maria, and DA-Philippine Carabao Center at Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DA-PCC at DMMMSU) in San Patricio, Sta Maria, Pangasinan on October 4, 2024.

Mayor Julius Ramos said that the beneficiaries should value this new venture because it has provided them with opportunity to improve their lives. He emphasized that a successful project requires dedication and patience from all team members.

DA-PCC at DMMMSU Center Director Vilma C. Gagni emphasized the importance of patience and hard work when starting a carabao business.

“Matagal ang development ng kalabaw. Hinihintay ng tatlong taon ang dalagang kalabaw bago ito mapabuntis at madadagdagan ulit ito ng 10 buwan bago manganak. Pagkatapos nito, ang inahing kalabaw ay pwede nang gatasan sa loob ng 10 buwan,” she said.

Director Gagni also highlighted the success of Bantog Samahang Nayon Multi-Purpose Cooperative, which has been in the carabao industry for nearly two decades and is now reaping the benefits of its dedication, determination, and hard work.

The DSWD-SLP Pangasinan II allocated PHP450,000 from its seed capital fund to purchase six crossbred buffaloes. The DA-PCC at DMMMSU will entrust an additional five pregnant carabaos to the association, alongside providing

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Milka Krem reopens with a fresh new look, labeled as DOT-accredited tourism spot

By **France Joseph Pascual**

Milka Krem in the Science City of Muñoz officially relaunched its newly refurbished store on December 2, 2024, with a Department of Tourism (DOT) quality seal to boast. The move further cements its status as a must-visit destination for locals and tourists alike.

Known for its tagline “Fresh & Natural,” the revamped Milka Krem has become a prime spot in Nueva Ecija for high-quality carabao milk-based products and “pasalubong”.

During the reopening ceremony, DA-PCC Executive Director III Dr. Liza Battad highlighted the strategic vision for Milka Krem’s future.

“We are gathered to this event to recognize Milka Krem as a tourist destination accredited by the DOT.

Ihahanda lang namin ‘yung ibang component sa complex na ito kasama ang hostel para ‘yung buong DA-PCC ay marecognize as a national tourist spot in the country,” she said.


The renovated outlet now includes a dedicated business room and features DA-PCC’s icons, KalaBoy and KalaGirl, as plush toys.

Patrizia Camille Saturno, head of the Carabao Enterprise Development Section, hinted at the addition of new products to Milka Krem’s offerings. “Tulad ng isang negosyo, hindi matatapos ang laban sa pagbubukas muli ng ating pintuan. Patuloy kaming magbibigay ng mas maganda at mas mataas na kalidad na serbisyo at produkto para sa inyong lahat,” Saturno said, calling on the public to support Milka Krem not just as a café

but as a place filled with stories, love, and service. The blessing ceremony was officiated by Rev. Father Renz Jane Valente, who expressed his hopes for the store’s continued success.

In a social media post, Milka Krem Marketing Manager Jeraldin Torres expressed her gratitude to the team behind the relaunch.

“Grateful to this amazing team for all the hard work these past few days. From handling stress to managing time pressure, you’ve all been incredible. Keep it up, team! I’m so proud of every one of you.”

Milka Krem first opened its doors to the public in October 2012, with its main branch in Nueva Ecija and another store located at the University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB). 



📍 DA-PCC at DMMMSU

PDIU produces new dairy products, conducts tech transfer to processors

By **Maximo Peralta Jr.**

The DA-Philippine Carabao Center’s Product Development and Innovation Unit transferred new technology on toned carabao-based dairy products to Dairy Box operators and regional representatives across all DA-PCC island clusters from September to October 2024.

The flavored toned carabao’s milk is a product of yearlong research entitled “Development of Toned Carabao-based Dairy Products for the Dairy Box Outlets,” authored by Senior Science Research Specialist and Carabao Enterprise and Development Section Head Patrizia Camille Saturno.

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📍 DA-PCC at UPLB

DTRI, DA-PCC at UPLB aim for ruminant industry transformation in forum

By **Jeremie Marinella S. Ledesma**

“The Ruminant Forum is a testament to the commitment and strengthening of the ruminant industry in the Philippines. It is an invaluable opportunity to reflect on the latest innovations and explore the practical and actual applications of these innovations,” said Dr. Rossana Marie C. Amongo, vice chancellor for research and extension, on behalf of Dr. Jose V. Camacho Jr., chancellor of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) during the 4th ruminant forum at the Animal Science

Complex, College of Agriculture and Food Science (CAFS), UPLB held on November 21-22, 2024.

Through plenary sessions, the forum highlighted innovations in the ruminant industry. Engr. Joseph Sandro, an associate scientist at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), discussed the importance of rice straw. Dr. Amado Angeles, dean of UPLB CAFS, presented Greenhouse Gas Measurement in Cattle.

Nile David of East Asia Vet discussed the advances in animal health programs for ruminants, focusing on Hemorrhagic Septicemia (Hemosep). His presentation highlighted Hemosep symptoms, transmission, epidemiology and pathogenesis, diagnosis, and preventive measures using vaccines.

Dr. Caro B. Salces, former deputy executive director of the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) discussed “Corn

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ISO/IEC 17025 training empowers RDD staff to enhance lab quality standards

By Alvin V. David

The DA-PCC is now gearing toward ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation to ensure that the agency practices excellence in laboratory work and services. To pursue this goal, a recent five-day course was conducted by the Research and Development Division (RDD) and the Management Systems Audit Office (MSAO) last October 7-11, 2024.

The ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation is critical for laboratories in demonstrating technical competence and providing assurance for high-quality testing and calibration outcomes.

The five-day training program covered a range of topics including an appreciation of Laboratory Quality Management Systems (Based on ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Standard), Effective Internal LQMS Auditing, and Measurement Uncertainty in the Laboratory.

During the said course on LQMS standards, such as confidentiality, impartiality, proficiency testing of laboratory personnel, and approval of signatories for laboratory results, were discussed. Effective internal LQMS auditing requires thorough planning, execution, and follow-up to ensure compliance with the standard's requirements. ISO/IEC 17025 specifies the general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration of laboratories.

Measurement uncertainty in the laboratory refers to quantifying how much doubt or variation is associated with a measurement result. It provides a range within which the true value is expected to lie, considering possible errors and limitations in the measuring process. This concept ensures transparency and reliability when reporting scientific results. **B**

📍 DA-PCC at DMMMSU

DA-PCC at DMMMSU revitalizes technicians for enhanced AI service delivery

By Maximo Peralta Jr.

The DA-PCC at Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DA-PCC at DMMMSU) has enhanced the capabilities of its artificial insemination (AI) technicians through a two-day refresher course and forum held from September 25-26, 2024, at LGU Agri-tourism, Amlang, Rosario, La Union.

The training aimed to reinforce the knowledge of AI technicians in conducting efficient and high-quality AI services—a critical component in improving service delivery to rural farmers.

Reynaldo Paneda, the AI coordinator of the center, acknowledged the efficiency of AI technicians and calf drop monitoring are the main factors affecting the center's target.

He also mentioned that based on the analysis of the AI database of the center, only 10 technicians met the required AI efficiency rate. To address this gap, the center organized the refresher course and forum.

The first day of the event focused on providing AI technicians with a refresher on key practices, such as

proper filling out of form, thawing and handling of semen, and actual AI procedures. The second day featured a forum led by Paneda, addressing common issues, sharing updates, and devising strategies to improve the delivery of AI services.

During the event, outstanding village-based AI technicians were recognized for their exemplary performance. Christian Dela Rosa, Davis Pascua, and Arnold Basuel were awarded for achieving the highest AI efficiency rates, while Jessie Aromin, Arnold Basuel, and Josue Abando received recognition for hitting the highest calf drop numbers.

Dela Rosa, who earned the top spot in AI efficiency, stated that he always ensures that carabaos are in good health with correct body condition score before performing AI procedures and that he follows the best practices as advised by his AI team leader.



The center has also provided AI paraphernalia and supplies to the technicians.

A scheduled meeting with the regional and provincial AI coordinators within the service area of the center will be held on the second week of October 2024 to tackle the issues

of AI technicians and provide a cohesive action plan for the successful implementation of the AI program.

The said initiative is part of the center's commitment to the agency's mandate to conserve, propagate, and promote the carabao for the benefit of rural farmers. **B**



📍 DA-PCC at MMSU

Ilocos Sur co-op trains on carabao prod'n under ALAB Karbawan

By Ivy Jane U. Guanzon

The DA-Philippine Carabao Center at Mariano Marcos State University (DA-PCC at MMSU) in partnership with the Suyo Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SMPC) conducted a training workshop from October 14 to 18, 2024, focused on enhancing dairy farming skills among cooperative farmer members.

With the theme "Anan-Nuangn Comprehensive Training Program on Dairy Buffalo Production and Management for the Accelerating Livelihood and Assets Buildup (ALAB) Karbawan Project," this initiative aimed to equip farmers with essential knowledge and practical skills for effective carabao management, with support from DA-PCC at MMSU.

The workshop began with a three-day lecture series at the SMPC training hall, where participants learned best practices on dairy buffalo production

and the fundamental principles of dairy farming.

Following the lectures, a two-day hands-on workshop provided farmers with invaluable practical experience in various areas such as carabao milking, silage preparation, forage planting, and milk quality testing.

Joel F. Cabading, OIC center director of the DA-PCC at MMSU, extended his heartfelt gratitude to the farmer members and the board of directors of SMPC for their commitment to the challenge of raising dairy buffaloes.

"Agkakadwa tayo nga mangpadakkel kadagitoy a dingwen, tulungan dakami tapno matulungan dakayo (Let us help each other raise those carabaos, help us so that we can help you better)," he said.

He assured the DA-PCC at MMSU would provide full support and assistance for the management of carabaos that will be entrusted to the farmer members.

ALAB Karbawan is funded by the Office of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform chaired by Sen. Cynthia A. Villar.

As a significant outcome of this training, 10 SMPC farmer members are set to receive buffaloes once the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is finalized between DA-PCC at MMSU and SMPC. This initiative not only enhances the skills of local farmers but also strengthens the foundation for sustainable dairy production in the region. **B**

DA-PCC hosts cryopreservation learning activity for agri sector, private farm representatives

By France Joseph O. Pascual



Research collaborators from various private and government agencies engaged in the livestock industry participated in a Consultative Meeting and Knowledge Sharing on Optimized Cryopreservation Protocols on Swine, Goat, and Cattle Semen at the National Livestock Cryobank facility of the DA-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) on October 14-16, 2024.

Led by the Research and Development Division's Cryobank Section and supported by the DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research, the activity included hands-on training on basic semen cryopreservation

techniques, frozen semen handling, and semen processing for farm application.

"I hope this engagement will entice more private agencies to use the livestock cryobank facility as a laboratory for applied research," DA-PCC Executive Director Liza Battad said.

She also added it is high time to share the success of buffalo semen cryopreservation and expand its myriad of benefits to other livestock animals.

Dr. Edwin Atabay, OIC deputy

executive director of DA-PCC, hoped that this kind of activity would promote cryopreservation as a potential technology to achieve sustainability and resiliency against climate change and disease threats.

"This training will serve as a foundation for many agencies to uphold and implement programs on animal genetics conservation in support of the animal production systems and to conduct animal research in academic settings by preserving quality genetics through cryopreservation," Dr. Lilian Villamor, head of the Cryobank Unit, said.

She is optimistic that young researchers will learn this technology and to conserve genetics using cryopreservation.

The three-day event featured lectures, practical demonstrations, and evaluations on boar and cattle semen cryopreservation. Participants also shared research on optimized cryopreservation protocols, underscoring the importance of quality genetics preservation.

Now, the National Livestock Cryobank serves as the national repository for germplasm in accordance with DA-AO No. 31 of 2021, which expanded its role in strengthening linkages and contributing to scientific research in the livestock sector. **B**

NCC celebrates decade of industry sharing...

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community tour and the Cara-Aralan Farmer's Field Day (FFD) held at the NSCC Agri-Tourism Farmville in Ilocos Sur.

The Cara-Aralan FFD featured demonstration sessions attended by nearly 190 carabao farmers from various cooperatives, proper milking methods, milk analysis, and management, artificial insemination,

drone mapping, drone fertilizer application, forage production, and silage and haylage production with buro booster, and processing and development of various carabao milk products.

The conference successfully concluded with a general assembly meeting, during which the association's bylaws were approved.

A motion was unanimously proposed and passed for the installation of the interim officers to compose its official Board of Trustees.

The 11th NCC is scheduled to take place in Kidapawan City, Cotabato, in September next year to be hosted by the Sta. Catalina Multipurpose Cooperative in partnership with DA-PCC at University of Southern Mindanao. **B**



DA-PCC launches 'OMK!' campaign on AI program in Capiz, Sultan Kudarat

By Don Miguel Capariño & France Joseph O. Pascual

The DA-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) officially launched its #OhmAIKalabaw! (OMK!) Activation Program in Sultan Kudarat and Capiz, hoping artificial insemination (AI) will improve calf and milk production nationwide.

OMK! is a communication campaign that aims to increase stakeholders' awareness and understanding of AI services and, consequently, participation in the Carabao Upgrading Program with the help of "Super KAI," a character launched as part of the campaign representing the efforts of AI technicians in buffalo breeding and raising awareness about the importance of AI.

The OMK! campaign is composed of three strategies: ka[AI]alaman, ka[AI]bigan, and ka[AI]saya!, which all involves

online and in-person engagements to promote artificial insemination.

"Layon ng OMK!, isang kampanyang isinasagawa ng DA-Philippine Carabao Center, na palaganapin ang dekalidad na serbisyong AI sa buong bansa at pataasin ang populasyon ng mga kalabaw na may mataas na lahi," DA-PCC OIC chief of KMD and OMK! Campaign program director Rowena Galang said. She added, "Sa paraang ito, tataas ang produksyon ng gatas sa bansa at lalago ang mga industriyang salig sa iba't ibang produktong galing sa kalabaw."

First Activation in Mindanao

More than 200 carabao farmers and AI technicians from the municipality of President Quirino, Sultan Kudarat, participated in the event on October 3,

2024.

Mayor Ma. Katrina Buena F. Sandigan expressed her appreciation to DA-PCC for selecting President Quirino as the program's first activation site. She highlighted the program's potential to enhance calf production and serve as a model for increased milk production in the province.

"Malaking tulong ang nagagawa ng programa ng DA-PCC sa pagkabalabaw at paggagatas. Marami itong maitutulong lalo na sa ating kalusugan at additional income din galing sa gatas ng kalabaw," Mayor Sandigan said.

Dr. Geoffray R. Atok, center director of DA-PCC at the University of Southern Mindanao, proudly noted that this was the first OMK! activation in the country.



📍 DA-PCC at CLSU

Cara Cuero unveils latest collection, advocates local craftsmanship

By **Camille Jane Soliman**

A fresh collection of Cara Cuero debuted in the fashion event titled “Fashion Evolved: Empowering Voices, Opening Lives, and Valuing Everyone’s Diversity,” held at FPJ Hall, CLSU, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija on November 25, 2024.

The Cara Cuero brand, known for its genuine carabao leather products, which were introduced by the DA-Philippine Carabao Center at Central

Luzon State University (DA-PCC at CLSU), takes pride in their latest items, which include inner garments.

The new collection highlights sustainability, Filipino craftsmanship, and tradition, showcasing the use of local materials while celebrating the creativity and innovation of modern design.

Dr. Ravelina R. Velasco, vice president

for academic affairs, praised DA-PCC at CLSU for its innovative product. She noted how the project generates income, creates opportunities, promotes sustainability, and empowers communities.

“Hangga’t may balat ng kalabaw, may hanapbuhay, hangga’t may balat ng kalabaw, may pagkain ang Pilipino, at may fashion na nagiging simbolo ng ating pagkakakilanlan,” Dr. Velasco added.

Dr. Celyrah B. Castillo, dean of the College of Home Science and Industry, expressed her immense pride in Cara Cuero, calling it the pride of CLSU. She also shared her hope to see Cara Cuero featured on international runways in the future. In his inspirational message, Dr.

Ericson N. Dela Cruz, center director of DA-PCC at CLSU, said Cara Cuero offers a variety of products designed to meet diverse needs, all crafted from carabao hide.

He explained that even a deceased carabao can continue to serve a purpose, with its hide being transformed into useful items that generate profit.

In another segment of the show titled “The Industry-Driven Fashion Collection,” models graced the stage showcasing the stunning Cara Cuero bags. Tote bags, sling bags, and shoes were among the featured items showcased by the models. **B**



Hangga’t may balat ng kalabaw, may hanapbuhay; hangga’t may balat ng kalabaw, may pagkain ang Pilipino; at may fashion na nagiging simbolo ng ating pagkakakilanlan.

DR. RAVELINA R. VELASCO

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, CLSU

📍 DA-PCC at CMU

Bukidnon farmers gain know-how on animal nutrition practices in Cara-Aralan FFD

By **Jeson Candole**

More than 90 farmers from different municipalities and cities in Bukidnon participated in the Cara-Aralan Farmers’ Field Day (FFD) on October 17 to advance their knowledge and skills in animal nutrition and feeding technologies.

The FFD, structured as a concise version of the Farmer Field School initiated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), focused on equipping farmers with the skills to adopt innovative technologies aimed at increasing dairy productivity and profitability.

DA-Philippine Carabao Center at Central Mindanao University (DA-PCC at CMU) Agriculture Center Chief IV Dr. Lowell Paraguas welcomed the participants and expressed his appreciation to the Municipality of Don Carlos, Bukidnon, led by Mayor Ma. Victoria Pizarro, for its continued support of local farmers, particularly carapreneurs.

“An event like this provides a unique opportunity for hands-on learning and knowledge sharing, fostering innovation and collaboration within our agricultural community. The workshops and demonstrations you will participate in today are designed not only to elevate your skills but also to improve productivity and sustainability in our dairying practices,” Dr. Paraguas added.

Charity Castillo, Science Research Specialist I of the DA-PCC’s Production Systems and Nutrition Section (PSNS), presented the topic on “Forage and Feed Production, Conservation, and Utilization.”

“Forage and feed production are critical components of sustainable livestock management and play a vital role in ensuring the health and productivity of animals. Effective forage production begins with selecting appropriate plant species suited to local climates

and soil types, which can optimize nutritional value,” Castillo highlighted.

Dr. Phoebe Lyndia Llantada, Science Research Specialist II also from the DA-PCC’s PSNS, provided valuable insights into effective ensiling techniques and proper feeding practices to ensure livestock health and productivity.

“Silage making is not just a method of forage preservation, it is a strategic approach that enhances livestock nutrition, reduces costs, and supports sustainable agricultural practices,” Dr. Llantada said.

During the afternoon session, participants engaged in hands-on activities to learn about the latest innovations from DA-PCC. They explored techniques for ensiling, storing, and producing high-quality carabao feed using innovative

technologies like Blockmate and Buro Booster, which were presented by Dr. Llantada and Charity Castillo.

Elma Ormillo, one of the participants, expressed her appreciation to DA-PCC for sharing valuable practices and improved techniques in feeding and conservation of forage intended for large ruminants.

“On behalf of the many attendees here, we wanted to take this opportunity to say “Daghang Salamat” to DA-PCC and LGU-Don Carlos for giving us this impactful training. As a farmer, I am excited to share the new knowledge I have gained with my fellow farmers in our barangay,” Ormillo happily shared.

The activity, held at the Tourism Hall, Lake Pinamalayan, Don Carlos, Bukidnon, was organized by the DA-PCC’s Knowledge Management Division in collaboration with the DA-PCC at CMU and hosted by the Municipal Agriculture Office of Don Carlos, Bukidnon. **B**

📍 DA-PCC at LCSF

Cara-Aralan FFD features ‘Kwento at Kwenta’ of champion farmers in Negros Occidental

By **Louie Jee Huelar**

The Cara-Aralan Farmers’ Field Day (FFD) held on October 23 in San Juan, Siquijor, became a platform for DA-PCC at La Carlota Stock Farm’s (DA-PCC at LCSF) assisted champion farmers to share their inspiring journeys in carapreneurship, under the theme “Kwento at Kwenta ng Tagumpay.”

Corazon Badie, a pioneering carapreneur from Cadiz City, Negros Occidental, opened the session with a testimonial on how dairy buffalo farming has become a lifeline for her family. She highlighted the transformative potential of dairy buffalo farming as a sustainable income source for rural families. Recounting her personal challenges, she expressed, “Life as a carapreneur is not easy, but my unwavering perseverance has shaped who I am today.”

Her success has been life-changing, she shared, “Through carabao

farming and carabao’s milk, we now earn a minimum of PHP30,000 monthly, with twice-a-day milking—far more than the PHP150 we used to earn for a full day of work in the fields.” This additional income allowed her to support her family and send her children to school. Corazon encouraged fellow farmers to persevere, saying, “Kapag may tiyaga, may nilaga.”

Following Corazon, Randy Florentino from Murcia, Negros Occidental, shared his expertise in sustainable dairy buffalo farming. Randy emphasized that “forage and feed production are essential to sustainable livestock management” and described how selecting the right plant species and effective feeding practices can enhance livestock health and productivity. He highlighted the use of silage, noting, “Silage production is not just about preserving fodder—it’s

DA-PCC CBED coordinators recognized as outstanding gov't workers in CSC reg'l Pagasa Award

By Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano

In a proud #TatakPCC moment, two of DA-Philippine Carabao Center's Carabao-Based Enterprise Development (CBED) coordinators were recognized as recipients of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Pagasa Award during the 2024 Search for Outstanding Government Employees Regional Honor Awards Program (HAP) for the National Capital Region.

Fe Emelda C. Academia, senior science research specialist of the DA-PCC at Mindanao Livestock Production Center, and Janice H. Cuaresma, Science Research Specialist II of the DA-PCC at West Visayas State University, received the CSC Pagasa Award under the Individual Category. The award was presented to Academia and Cuaresma by CSC DND Field Director Fe P. Lacaba, on behalf of CSC DA/DENR Field Director Claudia A. Tan, during a ceremony held today, November 15, 2024, at Midas Hotel in Pasay City. Both awardees were given certificates in recognition of their outstanding contributions to advancing the DA-PCC's mission of empowering farmers through sustainable carabao-based enterprises. DA-PCC Human Resource Management Section Head Cecilia C. Abo was also present to witness the occasion.

Cuaresma shared her gratitude upon receiving the award, saying, "Every challenge we face forges our strength, enabling us to surpass expectations. I'm humbled by this recognition and



inspired to continue serving with dedication and empathy. I am honored to have been a part of the development of every farmer I have extended assistance to."

Academia, meanwhile, reflected on the long and often challenging path to creating livelihood opportunities for farmers, emphasizing that success is built through perseverance and learning from setbacks. "It may be hard, but embracing challenges brings forth greater opportunities for growth and improvement," she shared. DA-PCC Executive Director Dr. Liza Battad congratulated the awardees, calling them "#TatakPCC Service Excellence Brand Ambassadors" and commending their outstanding

contributions to the development of the CBED program. "Big congratulations for the well-deserved award. Continue championing the passion of fellow CBED coordinators," Dr. Battad said. Both Academia and Cuaresma were previously recognized by DA-PCC as outstanding development officers in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

The CSC Pagasa Award is conferred upon individuals or groups whose outstanding contribution/s resulting from idea or performance benefit more than one government department. The two awardees will advance to the national screening phase of the awards program, with the announcement of national winners yet to be scheduled. **B**

DTRI, DA-PCC at UPLB aim for ruminant...

From page 7

Silage Production as an Enterprise and Future Technological Trend." He highlighted the enterprise model, the evolution from manual systems to mechanization, productivity and profitability, ensiling technologies and practices, feeding and utilization practices, losses, and future trends and opportunities in corn silage production.

Alfonso Serrano, chief technical officer

of Bionova Precision Breeding, tackled the topic Efficiency of Fixed-Time Artificial Insemination (FTAI) in cattle. He highlighted Fixed Time AI (FTAI) as a biotechnological practice that benefits and contributes to the productivity and profitability of cattle. In addition to that, he introduced Doppler Ultrasound technology, which allows ultra-early pregnancy diagnosis (21 days after breeding).

Dr. Eric P. Palapac, OIC-chief of the Research and Development Division of DA-PCC, discussed using digital apps, specifically iFeed and iHealth, to improve nutrition and health in ruminants. He also emphasized the current challenges in ruminant health and feeding management, and how the use of apps such as the Knowledge Brokerage, Guidance, and Advisory Network (KBGAN) iFeed and iHealth are innovative

DA-PCC launches 'OMK!' campaign...

From page 11

He emphasized that Sultan Kudarat would soon begin producing carabao's milk.

"Hindi lang kayo ang una sa Sultan Kudarat, hindi lang kayo ang una sa buong Region, kayo ang una sa buong Pilipinas! Dito po sa President Quirino magsisimula ang supply ng gatas na ipoproso ng Sultan Kudarat!" Dir. Atok averred.

The event also included a lecture from Dr. Edwin C. Atabay, OIC deputy executive director of DA-PCC and

the national AI and bull entrustment coordinator, on best breeding practices for dairy production and Dr. Virgilio V. Lopez, GIP coordinator of DA-PCC at USM, on best practices in enhancing AI efficiency.

On the other hand, Rowena S. Galang, Knowledge Management Division's OIC chief and OMK! Campaign program director discussed the rationale behind the campaign, while Arnel Patricio Sr., the local top AI technician, shared his experiences and the benefits of AI.

The program concluded with an AI Bayanihan, led by Dr. Atabay and Dr. Lopez. The LGU and DA-PCC at USM also provided health services to carabaos in the barangay, such as deworming, vitamin administration, and vaccination.

Super KAI flies to Capiz

Led by the Knowledge Management Division (KMD) in partnership with DA-PCC at West Visayas State University (DA-PCC at WVSU), a total of 280 attendees, consisting of carabao farmers, AI technicians, and carabao-based cooperatives from Binuntucan, Pontevedra and Mainit, Cuartero, attended the activation program.

Along with Dr. Atabay's lecture, Dr. Myrteal Alcazar, officer-in-charge center director of DA-PCC at WVSU, tackled the best practices in increasing AI efficiency.

"Ang OMK! campaign ay nagsisimbolo ng commitment ng DA-PCC para

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Carapreneurship gains ground in Pangasinan via DSWD-SLP...

From page 5

technical training and services. Mayor Ramos also pledged further support, committing to donate 10 additional buffaloes next year to boost the initiative. The local government has provided support for the establishment of the buffalo shelter and forage area.

Since the Gatasang Kalabaw Kontra Kagutuman at Kahirapan is a convergence project, Provincial

Coordinator of DSWD-SLP Pangasinan II Ronald Gabriel mentioned that other national government agencies will provide additional capital to improve the project once its success is evident.

Grace Dela Cruz, DSWD-SLP Pangasinan II Provincial Partnership Officer, said the next phase of the project will focus on monitoring, with added assistance from agencies like

the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) for further training and capacity building.

The 30 Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries were socially prepared and capacitated with technical knowledge and skills in dairy buffalo production and management last September 18-20, 2024.

Now, the Arya Sta. Maria SLPA is ready to take the next step, committed to the successful rearing of their buffaloes, including a newborn calf, and the sustainability of the convergence project, which promises to improve the lives of its members. **B**

tools addressing these challenges, and improving the extension services provided by DA-PCC for carabao farmers.

Dr. Renier Mendoza, director of the Computational Science Research Center (CSRC), presented Artificial Insemination for Artificial Intelligence (AI4AI), in which he explained how artificial intelligence can analyze historical data, identify key factors and patterns, and create models for prediction and successful calf production. Gilbert Llanto, chairperson of the

ACDI multipurpose cooperative, discussed the prospects of the ruminant industry, highlighting their ruminant business opportunities and journey. The second day of the forum focused on techno-demos showcasing innovations in corn breeding and management, commercial corn silage baling technology for feed security, TMR production using corn silage, and geospatial methods for assessing herbage yield.

As part of the program, Engr. Redentor Vanguardia, engineer II of DA-PCC, demonstrated DA-PCC's drone for

foliar spray in crops and forages technology. He highlighted the Vermitea fertilizer (*need to clarify if tama po bang vermitea) developed by DA-PCC's Production System and Nutrition Section (PSNS).

The UPLB CAFS-IAS, DTRI, and DA-PCC at UPLB collaborated to organize the 4th Ruminant Forum, which aims to strengthen partnerships, foster collaboration, and bring industry stakeholders, researchers, and leaders to share innovative ideas and discuss ruminant industry trends to ensure the sustainability and growth of the industry. **B**

PDIU produces new dairy products, conducts tech transfer...

From page 7

The study focuses on developing carabao-based dairy products through a toning process to increase production volume, which will then be available for cooperatives to process and display in Dairy Box outlets.

Before identifying the different flavors for the toned carabao-based dairy products, the research team conducted a site visit and consultation.

"We have visited the Dairy Boxes and interviewed the operators about what

products are typically inquired about," Saturno said.

Chocolate, mango, pandan, ube, and strawberry were the selected flavors.

Before activity/knowledge transfer, a focus group panel was held in PCC before the sensory evaluation conducted at the national headquarters, DA-PCC at DMMMSU, DA-PCC at UPLB, DA-PCC at USF, and DA-PCC at USM.

The study, which ran from September 2023 to September 2024, was funded under the PL480. Her co-authors included Jan Czarina Salas, Teresita Baltazar, Jenica Salazar, Joan Joy Soliven, and Rica Rose dela Cruz. **B**

DA-PCC launches 'OMK!' campaign...

From page 15

i-professionalize ang AI as a viable source of income ng ating mga magkakalabaw sa pamamagitan ng pagpapalawig at pagpapaunlad ng lahi ng kalabaw," DA-PCC Executive Director Dr. Liza Battad said as she graced the OMK! activation program in the Visayas cluster.

Additionally, Henry Tumlos, the municipal mayor of Pontevedra, shared the city's potential to enhance its calf and milk production through AI.

In support of the campaign, Cuartero Mayor Tito Mayo also expressed, "Sa kampanya ng DA-PCC, malalaman ng mga tao rito sa Cuartero kung ano ang mga kahalagahan ng artificial insemination. Mawawala rin ang takot nila sa paggamit ng teknolohiya, tulad ng AI, sa pagpaparami ng kalabaw."

The OMK! Campaign is scheduled to launch in Isabela, Luzon, before the end of the year. **B**

Coconut farmers in Leyte join carabao program...

From page 4

smallholder farmers. This initiative will enable farmers to generate income through milk production, providing a stable source of revenue for the community.

Director Gabunada also emphasized that DA-PCC will offer technical assistance through training programs designed to empower local farmers with the skills and knowledge necessary to

improve productivity, animal health and welfare, and economic sustainability. He stressed that the success of this program "is all in their hands."

The entrustment was followed with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), marking the beginning of a transformative partnership among the farmers, PCA, and DA-PCC. **B**

Cara-Aralan FFD features 'Kwento at Kwenta' of champion farmers...

From page 13

a strategic approach that improves buffalo nutrition, reduces costs, and fosters sustainability."

Randy envisions his farm as a learning site partnering with the DA-PCC, aiming to inspire more farmers to become carapreneurs.

The event also featured engaging hands-on activities, allowing participants to learn dairy processing. Under the guidance of DA-PCC at LCSF Food Safety Compliance

Officer Louie Jee Huelar, attendees learned how to make strawberry-flavored pastillas using carabao's milk. This demo session equipped farmers with essential skills in milk processing and quality assessment.

The event drew over 100 farmers from Siquijor's various municipalities, reflecting a growing commitment among Filipino carapreneurs to transform their livelihoods through sustainable carapreneurship. **B**



FEATURE

Meet Dalisay, Matipuno—the future of premium carabao's milk, meat

From page 1

about cooking it well. It's also about admiring its color, texture, and taste, as well as the balance between fat and lean portions. A combination of all these elements enhances the entire eating experience.

On the other hand, more than the nutrient-rich quality of carabao's milk, imagine if a single carabao could sustain a small-scale dairy operation by providing high yield of milk each day.

A carabao that produces excellent quality and quantity of milk and meat is the dream of every dairy farmer.

With the growing recognition of how carabao's milk and meat can be valuable, it is of utmost importance to prioritize the programs that are able to improve the quality and production of the products. For this reason, the DA-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) is a major player in the effort to improve the genetics of carabao, to come up with better breed, and to develop advanced farming techniques. The DA-PCC has developed two riverine buffalo lines—Matipuno and Dalisay line.

Matipuno is a meat type line buffalo characterized by fast growth and higher milk yield, and Dalisay by its superior milk production. Matipuno, so called for its hardiness, is a name fitting for a high degree of meat yield and quality and Dalisay, precisely depicting pureness, thus referring to premium quality of milk.

The main point of Matipuno and Dalisay is their superior lineage, which is responsible for either meat or milk production rather than the sex of the animal. For instance, while a female buffalo may be part of the "Dalisay" breed, its lineage is more suited to producing high-quality meat than milk.

These developments are part of the DA-PCC's ongoing efforts to help farmers increase their economic status by providing them with carabaos of high genetic merit offering both higher yields and better-quality products.

"Matipuno and Dalisay are the outcome of our strategic backcrossing operations, which is intended to increase the population of dairy buffaloes in the Philippines while also improving genetic selection to create superior progeny," said Dr. Ester Flores, DA-PCC's national coordinator for its Genetic Improvement Program (GIP).

The backcrossing approach involves mating purebred riverine buffaloes with native swamp buffaloes (carabaos). The resulting offspring—crossbred carabaos—are bigger, meatier, and produce more

milk than native carabaos, which can only provide an average of one to two liters of milk a day.

Imported purebred (riverine) buffaloes were initially used as semen donors for artificial insemination in swamp buffaloes. The resulting offspring are called crossbred carabaos. The resulting offspring, which has 50 percent riverine blood and 50 percent swamp blood, is called the first filial generation (F1).

The second filial generation (F2) is produced by mating a purebred bull with an F1 cow. They will now have 75% riverine and 25% swamp offspring. After that, the F2 cow is mated to a purebred bull to produce offspring that have 87.5% riverine and 12.5% swamp blood, leading to the third filial generation (F3). Mating an F3 cow to a purebred bull produces the fourth filial generation (F4), which has 93.75 percent riverine blood and 6.25% swamp blood.

Among the clear success indicators of the program is not just increased productivity but also improved quality of both carabao milk and meat.

The creation of the two breeds has become a progressive step in the Philippine carabao sector. By genetically improving these breeds, the DA-PCC is not just upgrading the quality of carabao's milk and meat but also elevating the lives of local farmers. With the right combination of scientific innovation and sustainable farming practices, the improved breeds can bring significant contributions to both producers and consumers. **B**



MEET THE 2024 RETIREES



Dr. Caro B. Salces
Deputy Executive Director, DA-PCC

The Boholano visionary, 31 years of transforming dairy farming

Before the rise of DA-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC), one of the few individuals who witnessed its formation from humble beginnings to its present success is a Boholano. Half of his life, he spent 31 years in the service of Filipino dairy farmers. His tireless work in the office and in the field not only contributed to the growth of the agency but also transformed the lives of countless dairy farmers across the country. With a vision for sustainable dairy farming and a heart for those who till the land, he played a role in the success of DA-PCC, shaping its legacy from its early days to becoming the cornerstone of dairy development in the Philippines.

“It was a long journey. I guess all the challenges were there during that time, from lack of budget to inadequate facilities, and equipment. Bu we all worked hard and fully dedicated ourselves to the success of the program,” said Dr. Salces as he looks back at the agency’s formative years.

If you ask anyone at PCC to describe him, they would tell you he’s calm, kind, humble, and hardworking. Whenever you meet him, he will greet you with a big smile and say “kumusta” as if you were old friends, and that is who he is, a man dedicated to success—Dr. Caro B. Salces.

Born to Eutiquio Salces and Alejandra Bojo, Dr. Salces dedicated himself to fulfilling his parents’ dream for him to succeed. He

earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education from Bohol Agricultural College in 1983, graduating with Latin honors. He went on to earn his Master’s Degree in Animal Science from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). In 2000, he completed his Doctor of Philosophy in Animal Science at UPLB as well.

Driven by a vision for vibrant agriculture, he joined the national carabao development program as a researcher under the Philippine Carabao Research and Development Center (PCRDC). From 1994 to 2018, he served as the Center Director of the DA-PCC at Ubay Stock Farm (DA-PCC at USF). His calling expanded when he became the Deputy Executive Director of DA-PCC, and later designated as the Officer-in-Charge, Executive Director of the agency in January 2023 and assumed the role until January 2024.

As a researcher, he has conducted over 20 studies in the fields of animal nutrition and agriculture. In recognition of his work, he received the Gawad Saka Award for Applied Research from the Department of Agriculture in 2000-2001. He was also awarded the CSC Pagasa Award during the 2022 Search for Outstanding Government Employees Honor Awards Program-Region 3. Additionally, he served as the president of the Philippine Society of Animal Science (PSAS) from 2022-2023.

“**Allow me to express my best wishes and utmost confidence that PCC shall continue to make outstanding strides towards the development of the country’s carabao industry.**”



Francisco Gabunada Jr.
Center Director, DA-PCC at VSU

Gabunada’s leadership has brought DA-PCC at VSU to greater heights. His instrumental role in conducting the Farmers’ Livestock School on Dairy Buffalo Production empowered countless farmers, enhancing their livelihoods and contributing to national food security.

Gabunada also tirelessly promoted the Carabao Development Program, advancing genetic improvement, health, and productivity of carabaos. His advocacy improved the lives of farmers and contributed significantly to the country’s agricultural growth.

Benjamin John C. Basilio
Center Director, DA-PCC at USM



Director Basilio has played a significant role in metamorphosing Region XI and Region XII into competent implementers of the Carabao Development Program through Artificial Insemination and Bull Entrustment Programs.

Under his leadership, marked with strong rapport with DA-PCC at USM’s partners and stakeholders, the technical capabilities of the farmer-participants of the Carabao-Based Enterprise Development (CBED) through the Carabao-based Business Improvement Network (CBIN) and Coconut-Carabao Development Project (CCDP) were transformed into sustainable carapreneurship.

“**My dream for DA-PCC at USM was to establish machinery and equipment for the center and create processing facilities for dairy farmers. That dream has become a reality thanks to the collective efforts of the DA-PCC at USM family.**”



Minda Diloy
IMR, DA-PCC at NHGP

One of the pioneers behind DA-PCC’s ISO Certification is an incredible woman—Minda Diloy, integrated management representative (IMR), whose unwavering dedication and expertise paved the way for the agency’s continued ISO certification.

Diloy’s remarkable journey with DA-PCC was marked by her unrelenting passion for excellence. Her leadership and institutional knowledge were instrumental in guiding the team through the rigorous ISO certification process. Her meticulous attention to detail and commitment to quality earned PCC the esteemed certification—ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and ISO 45001.

“**My contribution to the agency is an outcome of its sustained honing and refining that made me an expert (in my own right) on management systems. I will always lookback to the motivations that often came in challenges. That way, I was moved to look for improvements rather than stagnating. And I am proud that it has become a way of life.**”

Dr. Arn Granada
Center Director, DA-PCC at WVSU



Dr. Granada’s dedication to promoting the Carabao Development Program in Western Visayas significantly improved the livelihoods of farmers, contributing to national food security and economic growth. His leadership facilitated in enhancing farmer capacity building, and strengthening community partnerships.

Under his leadership, the DA-PCC at WVSU hosted the pilot program of the School-on-the-Air (SoA) on Dairy Buffalo Production, led by the Knowledge Management Division. The program aired for four months and engaged 500 farmer-enrollees from seven municipalities in Iloilo.

In 2023, the DA-PCC at WVSU was recognized as the “Top Performing Center” for its outstanding contributions to improving the lives of rural farming communities in the Panay and Guimaras Islands.

“**My experience in public servanthood through understanding ‘common tao’ and the ‘carabao’ is my resolve to be naturally grateful to the PCC family’s top management, coworkers, and arrays of partner clients.**”

OTHER RETIREES

Al G. Bernardino
Farm Superintendent II
DA-PCC at CSU | 31 yrs. in service

Ricardo N. Barbosa
Laboratory Technician II
DA-PCC at UPLB | 29 yrs. in service

Alejandro C. Cantalejo Jr.
Administrative Aide III
DA-PCC at UPLB | 30 yrs. in service

Arturo S. Blancaflor
Laboratory Aide II
DA-PCC at WVSU | 29 yrs. in service

Eduardo C. Estacion
Farm Worker I
DA-PCC at WVSU | 29 yrs. in service

Rogelio L. Gamayon
Farmer Worker I
DA-PCC at CMU | 30 yrs. in service

Catherine P. Dabalos
Supervising Science Research Specialist
DA-PCC at MMSU | 28 yrs. in service

Gundolino P. Bajenting
Supervising Agriculturist
DA-PCC at USF | 30 yrs. in service

GOT QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS? CONTACT US



www.pcc.gov.ph



DA-Philippine Carabao Center



Philippine Carabao Center



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Scan the following QR codes to visit our Knowledge Portal and experience a virtual tour to the DA-PCC National Headquarters and Gene Pool

DA-PCC K-Portal



The DA-PCC Knowledge Portal (or simply K-Portal) serves as a hub or a one-stop e-platform for all knowledge products (in various formats) produced by the agency through its Knowledge Management Division.

DA-PCC Virtual Tour



To know more about DA-PCC's services and facilities, you can now explore the National Headquarters and Gene Pool via virtual tour which can also be accessed in the agency's official website.