

Bubalus



Quarterly Newsletter of the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center

Vol. 3 No. 1 • 2020



FEATURES

A couple's story: Teacher-and seaman-turned carapreneurs

By Rovelyn Jacang

Alaminos City is a 4th class municipality in the province of Pangasinan, which entices local and foreign tourists for its famous Hundred Island National Park. For many tourists, it is a common favorite because of the well-protected scenery.

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DA-PCC commemorates 27th year in new perspective

By Charlene Joanino

For more than two decades, the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) has been implementing the Carabao Development Program (CDP) with meaningful accomplishments, and as it commemorates its 27th year of existence, current initiatives are focused on helping achieve the DA's

twin goal "Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita".

Consistent with the said goal, this year's anniversary is aptly themed "Value Innovations: New Thinking in Carapreneurship", which feeds directly to the agency's 2020-2025

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Editor's Word



This year marks the onset of implementation of the PCC's five-year strategic plan (2020-2025), titled "Propelling PCC towards a Dynamic Carabao Sectoral Development". It shall focus on value-creating innovations in response to clients' needs with the theme "Value-creating Innovations to Improve Productivity, Profitability, and Sustainability" (VIPS) of carabao-based enterprises. This will be achieved by enhancing programs and technology innovations to expand production base, value chain enterprise improvement, and organizational capability-building to be responsive to a broader industry need.

In particular, the agency-led Carabao Development Program's (CDP) genetic improvement component will utilize a service delivery system dubbed "Carabao Herd Improvement Program Services" or CHIPS. The latter will allow organized data gathering, analysis, and feedback system so that participating farms can have basis for understanding the need to improve animal and herd performance and make necessary decision that would lead to increased profitability and better income. Likewise, the enterprise development component will banner Carabao Value Chain Improvement Service or CVIS, which aims to (1) harness organizational capacity, business performance, and leadership of existing organized groups as cooperative conduits of emerging family businesses; (2) expand CDP's reach thru the creation of province-wide CBE impact models; and (3) build clients' investment confidence, credit literacy, access, and accountability and insurance habits. The agency's extension and advisory services or EAS (focused on animal health, animal breeding, animal nutrition, among others) will also be digitized by way of developing learning modules in digital video format as well as developing mobile applications or EAS information systems for use by a cadre of knowledge brokers (PCC, LGU, private technicians, and progressive dairy buffalo farmers). Meanwhile, the Research and Development (R&D) component will utilize the Research for Development and Innovation System or R4DIS, which aims to scale up the R&D nexus in support of clients' productivity thru modeling research solutions across impact areas. Consistent with Secretary Dar's vision of Ani at Kita, the targets of PCC in this Medium Term Plan involve a 15%-increase each year.

In support of the above strategic plan, we at Bubalus will regularly share with you, readers, relevant and significant stories, as they happened. In this issue, we featured updates about the province-wide development initiative dubbed as ALAB-Karbawan, the opening of new dairy buffalo products outlets in Pangasinan and South Cotabato, including the agency's emergency response outreach program for livestock following the Taal volcano eruption.

Please continue to journey with us, as we move closer and closer to achieving our goals in the medium-term and beyond.

Eric P. Palacpac
Dr/ Eric P. Palacpac

About the cover

Beyond idyllic beaches, Olivia and Manuel Palazo of Brgy. San Roque, Alaminos found their "white gold" in carabao's milk. Their tenacity in dairying brought them out of their unfavorable situation and led them to a new start and better tomorrow.

(Photo by Charlene Joanino)



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Del Barrio takes oath as DA-PCC Executive Director under DA Sec. Dar's leadership

By Chrissalyn Marcelo

Following his appointment to continue serving as the Executive Director III of the DA-PCC last January 17, Dr. Arnel Del Barrio took his oath of office before Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary William Dar last February 3 at the DA, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Dr. Del Barrio's family and the PCC top officials and staff witnessed the oath-taking ceremony.

As executive director, his roles and responsibilities include: (a) overseeing the implementation of PCC's Carabao Development Program; (b) setting the direction for the agency's goals and the integrated management system policy and objectives; (c) ensuring that resources are available for the effective implementation of PCC's integrated management system; and (d) supervising the PCC to ensure that all of its targets are achieved.



DA-PCC Executive Director Arnel Del Barrio (2nd from left), alongside with his family, takes his oath before DA Secretary William Dar (1st from left) at DA, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City last January 17.

Prior to his appointment, Dr. Del Barrio was first appointed by former DA Secretary Proceso Alcala in June 2014 as the head of the said agency. He succeeded former executive director Dr. Libertado Cruz who served the PCC for some 20 years before retiring in 2014.

Dr. Del Barrio was a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, had masteral and PhD degrees in ruminant nutrition in the same institution, and a postdoctoral research certificate in animal nutrition at Kansas State University in the United States of America. His first stint at PCC started as a science research specialist under the Philippine Carabao Research and Development Center (PCRDC) project in 1983, the precursor of PCC.

After that, he became the center director of PCC at UPLB in 1997.

In 2010, under his leadership, Dr. Del Barrio and PCC at UPLB were cited as "Most Outstanding Center Director" and "Outstanding Regional Center", respectively.

Furthermore, he served as president of the following professional organizations: Philippine Society of Animal Science in 2007 to 2008, Philippine Society of Animal Nutritionists in 2003 to 2005 and the Association of Professionals in Livestock Production in 2000 to 2001.

He was also awarded the "2000 Outstanding Young Scientist" by the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) for his significant contributions to science and technology and was conferred the title Scientist I under the Scientific Career System on June 30, 2014 for his professional expertise and credibility as an animal nutritionist and a technical specialist.

Strong ties pave way for Dairy Box launching in Asingan, Pangasinan

By Ma. Cecilia Irang

The establishment and inauguration of the Dairy Box in barangay Bantog, Asingan, Pangasinan last February 28 was made possible through the concerted efforts of the national government agencies, local and provincial government units, and carapreneurs.

The Dairy Box, a one-stop-shop for carabao-based products conceptualized by the Business Development and Commercialization Unit (BDCU) of the DA-PCC, is an infrastructure support for smallhold dairy buffalo farmers designed to provide them opportunities such as access to the commercial market thus increasing their incomes.



PCC Executive Director Dr. Arnel Del Barrio explained the rationale behind the establishment of the first Dairy Box in the country, which is based in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. He shared that it is a response to one of the findings of a Value Chain Analysis conducted two years ago stating that one of the reasons why carabao-related programs are not expanding is due to lack of market channels.

He also recognized the importance of convergence and clear market tie-up for an enterprise to take off.

“I would like to thank our partners who have been with us throughout this endeavor, as PCC cannot do it alone. This wouldn't have been possible without the support of each one of you,” he said.

Managed by the Bantog Samahang Nayon Multi-Purpose Cooperative (BSNMPC), one of the assisted dairy cooperatives of PCC at Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (PCC@DMMMSU), the outlet in Asingan is now the 10th Dairy Box in the country and the 4th in Luzon.

It was realized specifically through the collaborative efforts of the PCC@DMMMSU, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), DA-Regional Field Office 1, local and provincial



governments of Pangasinan, and farmer-members of BSNMPC.

Counterparting the edifice of this Dairy Box was the additional budget allocated by the DAR for building enhancement. The DTI, on the other hand, provided freezers/chillers and two units of soft ice cream maker, among others, through its Shared Service Facility.

The DSWD's Sustainable Livelihood Program, DOLE, and DA-RFO 1 also contributed additional stocks of carabaos to dairy farmers in Pangasinan for herd build up, as more milk is needed for the processing of dairy products.

The local government unit (LGU) of Asingan, meanwhile, donated 300 sq.m. of land where the Dairy Box is situated. It also adopted the carabao's milk as its “One Town, One Product (OTOP)” to promote dairy products and entrepreneurship.

Abono Party List Deputy Speaker Cong. Conrado Estrella III, who (along with the late Senator Leticia Shahani) initially provided stocks of carabaos to farmers, bared his plans and commitment to further develop the Dairy Box in their area assuring that this will be the “best building of Dairy Box in the whole country”.



(L-R) DA-PCC Executive Director Dr. Arnel Del Barrio (2nd), Board Member Salvador Perez (3rd), PCC@DMMMSU Center Director Gloria Dela Cruz (4th), Abono Party List Deputy Speaker Cong. Conrado Estrella III (5th), BSNMPC Chairman Rolly Mateo (6th) and Asingan Mayor Carlos Lopez (7th) lead the opening and launching of the Dairy Box in Asingan, Pangasinan.



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Farmers' dairy co-op in South Cotabato launches own dairy store

By Charlene Corpuz

The Sto. Niño Dairy Farmers Association (SANDAFA), a registered group of dairy buffalo raisers in Sto. Niño, South Cotabato, officially engaged in dairy entrepreneurship on February 28 by putting up the first ever dairy store in Region XII to market various carabao's milk-based products of the cooperative and other smallholder farmers in nearby areas.

SANDAFA is assisted by the DA-PCC through its regional center headed by Dir. Benjamin John Basilio and hosted by the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) in Kabacan, North Cotabato.

The launching, which kicked off with a motorcade in Surallah and nearby towns, was graced by the PCC

mascots "Kalaboy" and "Kalagirl" together with the students of Sultan Kudarat Senior High School from the Province of Sultan Kudarat and Suinsangaan National Highschool from Sto. Niño, South Cotabato.

Pasteurized milk and choco milk products produced by D&L Dairy farm were distributed to the guests during the opening program, much to their delight.

Present during the program were PCC's institutional partners represented by Flora Gabunales, regional director of the Department of Trade and Industry XII (DTI), Dr. Flora Bigot of the Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO), Mayor Pablo Jr. Matinong of Sto. Niño Local

Government Unit (LGU), and Hon. Loel Nillos, municipal agriculturist of Surallah.

During her speech, DTI regional director Gabunales inspired the dairy farmers of SANDAFA to give importance on products packaging and social media marketing. These, she said "can make or break their brand."

She added that DTI will continue to support SANDAFA through the shared service facility for products processing.

Dr. Bigot, on the other hand, talked about "counterparting" as an essential role of key players (e.g., milk provider, processor, and seller) in the dairy business. She challenged

(In front, L-R) A ribbon cutting ceremony of SANDAFA dairy store graced by Surallah Municipal Agriculturist Loel Nillos (1st), Provincial Veterinarian Dr. Flora Bigot (2nd), PCC@USM center director Benjamin John Basilio (3rd), SANDAFA President Aquino Perida (4th), Sto. Niño Mayor Pablo Jr. Matinong (5th), DTI Representative Ms. Flora Gabunales (6th), and other members of the association.

the cooperative to produce the needed volume of milk to sustain the production of milk products.

More than the capacity to operationalize the business, she said passion has to be continuously nurtured in the hearts of the SANDAFA members, manifested by how much they are giving their carabaos tender loving care, among many others.

PCC@USM Center Director Basilio expressed his gratitude to partners for their support in providing livelihood assistance and other related programs for farmers and/or clients through strengthening the PCC's Carabao-based Enterprise Development Program.

He encouraged the dairy buffalo farmers to "start small, but think and dream big".

For the closing remarks, Rovelyn Jacang of the PCC national headquarters congratulated and

wished everyone a productive and successful venture. She stated that the SANDAFA dairy store, being the first of its kind in Region XII, is now a model carabao-based enterprise for other dairy cooperatives to emulate.

The main products featured during the event were the carabao's milk-based delicacies of "Sweet Plate" such as macarons, butter scotch, brownies, yema cake, brazo de mercedes, and choco moist, as well as ice cream and flavored lacto juice from "Niño Fresh" made by the cooperative-processors of SANDAFA.

DA-PCC garners 3rd place among DA operating units in cash utilization

By Jeffrey Laurence Antolin

With a total unused Notice of Cash Allocation (NCA) balance of only Php446.24 for FY 2019, the DA-PCC ranked third among the 31 different operating units of the DA in terms of the usage of NCA, which was awarded during the FY 2019 DA Year-End Financial Evaluation and Assessment Workshop last January 27-31 held in Iloilo City.

Other awardees were as follows: DA-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) VIII for the top spot, followed by DA-RFO VII for second place, DA-RFO VI for the 4th place, and the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), who were conferred 5th and 6th place, respectively.

The PCC received a total NCA of Php675,872,243.00 for the period January - December 2019 and has spent a total amount of Php675,871,796.76 or almost 100% of the given cash allocation, which translates to effective public service delivery.

The NCA represents the cash requirements of government agencies for the implementation of their programs, activities and projects for the year. Prudent financial management dictates that the NCA should be fully utilized in order to ensure that the Filipino people feel the benefits of their hard-earned taxes.

DA Undersecretary for Administration and Finance Roldan Gorgonio took part in the event with a keynote speech. According to him, every government employee should be knowledgeable about the pertinent rules concerning government transactions as everyone is considered stewards of government wealth.



PCC showcases benefits in urea-molasses treated rice straw

By Marijoan Nefulda

It is a common knowledge that rice straws are being burned after harvest either because it is difficult to collect, it has been a common practice for a long time, or farmers just don't have enough information on the use and benefits of the said crop residues.

A project, titled "Development of Sustainable Rice Straw Management Practices and Technologies for Ruminant Fodder in the Philippines" (RiceStraw PH), led by PCC Executive Director Dr. Arnel Del Barrio and funded by the DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) was recently introduced to farmers and livestock raisers from various towns in Ilocos Norte through a techno-demo titled "Enhancing Feeding Management Practices of Ruminant Raisers: A Urea-Molasses Treated Rice Straw (UMTRS) Demonstration and Technology Showcase" in Marcos, Ilocos Norte on January 30, 2020.

Participating farmers came from the towns of Marcos, Currimaog, Dingras, Solsona, Nueva Era, Banna and Pinili, and the City of Laoag.

The project is a collaboration among the DA-PCC, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and DA-Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice).

This project highlights not only the economic benefits that can be derived in utilizing the rice straws, but also the positive environmental impact of not burning them.

The participants were grouped into two, each guided by PCC personnel. They were given hands-on exercises on the preparation of UMTRS. After which, they were taught on the proper way of ensiling and sealing the silage bags.

Participants were also taught on how to store rice straws by using the baling machine or an improvised stationary wooden bailer.

Utilization of the UMTRS as an ingredient of the Total Mix Ration (TMR) was also demonstrated.

Dr. Daniel Aquino, center director of PCC at Central Luzon State University (PCC@CLSU) and study leader gave an overview of the project and also discussed the importance of rice straw as animal feed. He also presented the needed materials and discussed the step-by-step preparation and efficient utilization of the UMTRS.

The adoption of the UMTRS technology will benefit cooperatives with farmer-members, agricultural entrepreneurs, livestock producers and extension workers, as it ensures additional income and sustainable source of livestock feed.

MATERIALS FOR MAKING 100 kg of UMTRS



91.6 kg water, 4.40 kg urea, 4 kg molasses, and rice straws

PREPARATIONS

Simply dip the rice straws (preferably chopped) in the mixture. Then put it in a drum or in a silage bag, making sure that it is compact before sealing it.

REMINDER



The UMTRS can be fed directly to ruminants 30 days after ensiling. It ensures higher milk production for lactating animals, improved weight, and additional nutrient value.

DA-PCC assists in DA's livestock emergency operations in response to Taal Volcano's eruption

By Charlene Corpuz



The DA-PCC extended its support to the Department of Agriculture's initiative to rescue animals affected by the eruption of Taal Volcano through its newly launched Taal Livestock Care (TLC) Emergency Operations Center in Brgy. Marawouy, Lipa City, Batangas, last January 18.

The PCC, led by its Executive Director Dr. Arnel Del Barrio, donated tons of silage and rice straws as feedstuffs for the rescued animals. It also lent its animal rescue mobile service to be utilized throughout the rescue operations.

These feedstuffs will, in the meantime, satisfy the food requirement of the rescued animals since nearby forage areas were also devastated. Meanwhile,

veterinarians and volunteers were deployed to provide animal health services in the evacuation area.

This volcanic eruption, which started last January 12, caused severe damages and losses in the agricultural sector involving the fisheries, crops, and livestock.

The National Livestock Program, headed by Asec. William Medrano, consolidated support of any means from other livestock agencies of the DA such as the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS), National Dairy Authority (NDA), Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), and Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).

"We hope to unify all the efforts in this

sector to meaningfully and effectively contribute to the full recovery of smallhold producers who were gravely hit by the disaster," Asec. Medrano said.

In response to this undertaking, Vilma Dimaculangan, regional coordinator for Livestock Program, emphasized the need for close coordination among DA agencies and other organizations. She cited the implementation of a 14km-immediate response mechanism that intends to reduce the devastation caused by the volcanic eruption.

It was noted during the operations that the Provincial Veterinary Office of Batangas established a systematic handling of donations and assistance to prevent the ashfall's harmful effects to humans.

DA-PCC network, co-ops donate relief goods to Taal Volcano victims, evacuees

By Chrissalyn Marcelo

A total of 4,000 (200-ml) sachets of pasteurized fresh milk, 7 boxes of used clothes, boxes of assorted canned goods, noodles, water and toiletries (e.g., soap, shampoo, and toothpaste) amounting to an estimated price of Php120,000 were donated by the DA-PCC National Headquarters, PCC at Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (PCC@DMMMSU), PCC Multi-Purpose Cooperative (PCCMPC), and Bantog Samahang Nayon

MultiPurpose Cooperative (BSNMPC) to the Taal Volcano eruption victims and evacuees in Batangas province last February 7.

The recipients were some 700 families from Balete town who were evacuated to the Paligawan Elementary School and Jowivil Socialized Housing in the same town.

The distribution of relief goods was spearheaded by Municipal Agriculture Officer Raymond Cueto of the Balete

local government unit along with his staff.

The milk, meanwhile, was already distributed to the said recipients and those from Padre Garcia evacuation center in Batangas, according to the donors.

The donation of relief goods was an activity organized by the PCC National Headquarters, PCC@DMMMSU, PCCMPC, and BSNMPC. Organizers are from Nueva Ecija, La Union, and Pangasinan provinces.

ASKI inaugurates ASKI-AusAid Agri Center for ASKI-SKI youth carapreneurs

By Charlene Joanino

Select aspiring youth carapreneurs from the Alalay sa Kaunlaran Incorporated (ASKI) Skills and Knowledge Institute (SKI) are set to manage the ASKI-AusAid Agri Center that was inaugurated last January 22 in Talavera, Nueva Ecija.

The construction of the building was funded by the Australian Government and is intended for the processing, packaging, and marketing of products from carabao's milk. The PCC had already entrusted dairy carabaos to the ASKI-SKI for the said initiative and the agency will also serve as one of the sources of milk that will be processed in the facility.

"We conceptualized this project to help students who are not financially able to continue their studies and to bring back the interest of the youth in agriculture," Rolando Victoria, ASKI Group president and chief executive officer, said.

To manage the center, the "Samahan ng mga Kabataan Para sa Kaunlaran



(SKPK)" comprised of high school students from the ASKI's institute was created last year.

According to Ley Ann Pale, president of SKPK, the center can encourage youth like her to consider agriculture as a source of livelihood of students through value-added products from processed carabao's milk.

Meanwhile, PCC Executive Director Dr. Arnel Del Barrio expressed his support and commitment to the said project.

"PCC is willing to provide technical assistance and training on carabao-based products processing. We will also entrust additional dairy carabaos to ASKI-SKI for milk production," he said.

He added the project can also help contribute in the production of milk for feeding to Filipino children aged 5-12 years old as per Republic Act 11307 or the "Masustansiyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino

Act". The said act aims to fight malnutrition among Filipino children.

Also present in the event were Talavera Mayor Nerivi Santos Martinez and Department of Trade and Industry Nueva Ecija (DTI-NE) Provincial Director Brigida Pili.

"The center can be part of DTI's project on Shared Service Facility (SSF) where equipment for livelihood were provided," DTI Provincial Director Pili said. She added there are about 50 cooperatives that were granted with SSF.

ASKI Group Chief Executive Officer Victoria said they hope to expand the project to other schools as well and encourage Filipinos to continuously patronize carabao's milk.

The ASKI is a non-stock and non-profit organization involved in social services and establishment of small to medium enterprise.

ALAB KARBAWAN

UPDATES

BY CHRISSALYN MARCELO AND PAUL ANDREW TEXON

Forging partnerships, conducting learning events, distributing dairy buffaloes, establishing milk processing plants and marketing outlets are currently being conducted by the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) under its "ALAB-Karbawan" project, which started in 2019.

The word "ALAB" in "ALAB-Karbawan" is an acronym that stands for **Accelerating Livelihood and Assets Buildup** while "Karbawan" is a Visayas and Mindanao term meaning buffalo production and management or "pagkakalabaw".

The project aims to establish a robust **Carabao-based Business Improvement Network (CBIN)** in 17 sites in 16 provinces in the Philippines through the sponsorship of Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food chairperson Senator Cynthia Villar.



PROJECT SITES

- Ilocos Sur
- Pangasinan
- Tarlac
- Bataan
- Albay
- Palawan
- Negros Oriental
- Antique
- Zamboanga del Sur
- Zamboanga del Norte
- Misamis Oriental
- Davao Del Sur
- Davao de Oro
- Davao Oriental
- South Cotabato
- North Cotabato

94.1%

ESTABLISHED PARTNERSHIPS WITH STRONG COOPERATIVES AND LGUs

16 out of 17 cooperatives and 16 out of 17 LGUs became partners of DA-PCC.

53%

INVOLVED FARM FAMILIES

180 out of 340 families were already involved in the project.

Of this number, 99 farmer family members were already trained on dairy buffalo production and management.

46.5%

DISTRIBUTION OF DAIRY BUFFALOES

395 dairy buffaloes out of 850 were distributed to clients.

Apart from this, the DA-PCC also entrusted 93 dairy buffaloes to clients.

Two processing plants and **three market outlets** were also established under the project. These establishments can be found in Bataan, Pangasinan, and Albay.

By the 3rd quarter of 2020, **212,303 children** will become beneficiaries of the milk feeding program and **Php249,738,563** income will be generated from the sales of carabao's milk.

The project also aims to produce a total of **82,733kg of milk** by 4th quarter of 2020, generate a total of **Php4M (raw milk)** and **Php12M (value-added) income** from carabao's milk and carabao-based products, establish partnerships or link with **17 qualified suppliers** for the milk feeding program and engage **at least 100 women** in the dairy business.

Bataan farmers get additional dairy buffaloes from PCC@CLSU

By Chrissalyn Marcelo



At least 14 farmer-members of Tapulao Multipurpose Cooperative (TMC) in Orani, Bataan received additional 25 head of dairy buffaloes from the PCC at Central Luzon State University (PCC@CLSU) last February 14.

The said cooperative first received a total of 15 dairy buffaloes from PCC@CLSU last November 20. All of the dairy buffaloes entrusted to them were part of the ALAB-Karbawan project of the PCC, according to PCC@CLSU center director Dr. Daniel Aquino.

“The word ‘ALAB’ in ‘ALAB-Karbawan’ is an acronym meaning Accelerating Livelihood Assets Buildup. It is a Php185M project that is currently being spearheaded by the PCC to ensure the sustainable establishment of a Carabao-based Business Improvement Network (CBIN) in 16 provinces in the Philippines,” he explained.

“Senator Cynthia Villar sponsored this project,” he added.

ALAB-Karbawan also supports the main goal of the government to increase the local milk production in the country.

“The total milk production in the Philippines right now is about 24M liters a year while our total milk production requirement is around 1.764B liters. There is a huge difference between these two facts that is why Senator Villar allotted budget for this project so that our country’s milk production would significantly increase and many farmers would benefit from it,” he explained.

Bataan province, meanwhile, was among the select pilot areas of the ALAB-Karbawan. Other select provinces were: Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Albay, Palawan, Negros Oriental, Antique, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Misamis Oriental, Davao Del Sur, Davao de Oro, Davao Oriental, South Cotabato, and North Cotabato

“In Bataan, we selected farmers from the towns of Orani and Dinalupihan to be the beneficiaries of the project. Aside from the entrustment of dairy buffaloes, other supports such as free technical trainings on dairy buffalo production and management; milk processing; and two processing plants will be provided and established in this province”. [Dr. Daniel Aquino, PCC@CLSU center director]

In his welcome remarks, Municipal Agriculturist Arturo Matias expressed his support to the program of PCC.

Provincial Veterinarian Dr. Albert Venturina, meanwhile, encouraged the farmer-members of TMC to take care of the buffaloes. In his message, he said: “We are very lucky here in Bataan because you have chosen us as one of the pilot areas of ALAB-Karbawan project.”

The attendees of the activity were the farmer-members of TMC, staff and employees of the local government of Orani, Provincial Government of Bataan, Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), PCC National Headquarters, and PCC@CLSU.



2 cooperatives assisted by PCC@MLPC receive dairy buffaloes

By Dorie Bastatas

One hundred twenty crossbred dairy buffaloes were distributed to Antipolo, Dapitan City; Polanco, Zamboanga del Norte; Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur, and Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur in which 30 female breedable animals were dispersed in each municipality. Fifty-three farmer recipients who are member of conduit cooperatives received the animals.

The entrustment of the buffaloes took place in three sites namely: Antipolo, Dapitan City, Zamboanga Del Norte last December 2, 2019; Mecolong, Dumalinao, Zamboanga Del Sur on December 4, 2019 and Tukuran gymnasium last January 24. However, the delivery was made entirely on February 13, 2020.

The activity was graced by PCC@MLPC Center Director Dr. Cecelio Velez, Carabao-based Enterprise Development Coordinator Fe Emelda Academia, and PCC staff members, Local Government Unit of Dapitan, House of Representatives of the 1st Congressional District of Zamboanga del Norte; Municipal Agriculturist of Dumalinao, Local Government Unit of Dumalinao; Chairman and General Manager of Baclay Multi-Purpose Cooperative; OIC Municipal

Agriculturist of Tukuran, Local Government of Tukuran, Office of Provincial Veterinarian-Zamboanga del Sur and Deputy Executive Director Dr. Caro Salces.

Hon. Rosalina Jalosjos, city mayor of Dapitan City emotionally said, “I am very grateful especially for the farmers since this project can significantly improve their lives. This made me cry because I came from a family of farmers myself and I know just how hard life is living in subsistence.

Stock upgrading and infusion of genetically improved carabaos will increase milk and meat production, thus, creating income generation of the farmers and engagement on the carabao-based enterprises.

Because of our beloved Senator Cynthia Villar, the farmers now have this chance for a better life. So, I encourage the farmers to take good care of the animals entrusted to them.”

The recipients of the crossbred dairy buffaloes are Farmer Livestock School on Dairy Buffalo Production (FLS-DBP) participants which are currently being conducted in two sites by accredited FLS-DPB facilitators, which include PCC and Local Government Unit (LGU) personnel and progressive farmers. This is part of capacity building of primary stakeholders that help dairy farmers augment their learning experiences on dairy buffalo management and production.

The said activity is an intervention under the Accelerating Livelihood and Assets Buildup for carabao production (ALAB-Karbawan) project of the PCC. This aims to establish a province-wide Carabao-Based Business Improvement Network to propel an inclusive, sustainable and highly competitive local dairy industry.

The second phase of ALAB-Karbawan will cover technical services, mentoring, monitoring and provision of post-harvest facilities and other support services to the conduit cooperatives of the project.

'Common grounding in CBIN': A farmer-to-farmer talk

By Rodolfo Jr. Valdez



Dr. Virgilio Lopez, PCC@USM farm superintendent, tours the participants around the PCC's facilities and gives lectures on pasture development, animal breeding and health management.

Understanding the concepts and practices of a dairy enterprise through common grounding can be a key to a successful venture.

With this notion, a total of 15 identified recipients of dairy buffaloes from Highland Agricultural Credit Cooperative (HACC) of Lake Sebu, South Cotabato underwent field exposure to the management practices of successful dairy buffalo farmers assisted by the PCC at University of Southern Mindanao (PCC@USM) under the Carabao Business Improvement Network (CBIN) in Region XII, January 30-31.

The objectives of the said activity were to let the HACC members experience and conduct interviews with successful farmers about their dairy production activities and to meaningfully gather good practices and strategies for increased milk production and efficiency in dairy management.

Nasrola Ibrahim, PCC@USM CBED coordinator, said letting the farmers actually see and experience the activities of their co-farmers is an effective approach to learning.

Among the dairy farmers' sites that were visited include those of Canahay Dairy Farmers Association

(CADAFA) members Gemma Bengil and Rodel Estañol in Surallah, South Cotabato on milk collection and pasteurization; Abner Panaligan's dairy farm in Sto. Niño, South Cotabato on sweet corn silage production; and D&L Dairy Farm owned by Dominic Paclibar in M'lang, Province of Cotabato on animal shed construction and calf feeding.

"Upon visiting the dairy farm of CADAFA members, I realized that perseverance among members could create a strong bond within the cooperative, which is key to their successful enterprise," HACC member Rodelyn Estaba.

"When we started dairy farming through the CBIN project, we intentionally take heed from the lessons that we learn as we progress in order to be successful in our chosen venture," HACC chairwoman Merlinda Go said.

In response to what Go said, PCC@USM center director Benjamin John Basilio said the conduct of the

activity was part of the preparation of the cooperative for its upcoming dairy project. Director Basilio emphasized that PCC intends to serve as a channel of blessing and not an additional burden to the dairy farmers.

Meanwhile, Gemma Bengil, member of CADAFA, said she is glad to be of service to their fellow farmers as they get ready to impart to them the knowledge on buffalo dairying.

Aside from field exposure, participants also toured around the facilities of PCC@USM including its institutional herd. Participants were also given lectures on pasture development, breeding management, and health management by its farm superintendent Dr. Virgilio Lopez.

The HACC is the second cooperative under the stewardship of PCC@USM that has undergone the said activity following Linoan Farmers Integrated Cooperative (LIFICO) of Montevista, Davao de Oro last December 4-6.

"We are happy because we were the ones before who were trained by PCC@USM but now we are given the opportunity and the honor to teach our fellow farmers of what we know." [Gemma Bengil, CADAFA member]

From page 1

DA-PCC commemorates

Strategic Plan titled "Propelling PCC towards a Dynamic Carabao Sectoral Development".

"As a research and development agency, we create value innovations through the development of technologies that can help progress carapreneurship in both the private and the public sectors," said Alvin David of the PCC Planning and Information Management Division, also this year's chairperson for the anniversary celebration.

He noted that technology outputs of PCC, in products development for example, should be able to cut production time and cost while upholding product quality. In this way, not only is the interest of carapreneurs served but the customers' as well.

The PCC's strategic plan is mainly anchored on "Value-creating Innovations to Improve Productivity,

Profitability, and Sustainability (VIPS) of carabao-based enterprises (CBE)". It includes the Carabao Value Chain Improvement Services (CVIS) that usher enterprise development through improvement of organizational capability of credit conduits, province-wide CBE models, client knowledge acquisition, and capability building.

Another initiative is called "Carabao Herd Improvement Program Services" (CHIPS), which aims to support current genetic improvement program initiatives in water buffaloes by way of more efficient data gathering, analysis, and feedback system.

Likewise, modeling solutions to support productivity of PCC's clients such as carapreneurs, carabao raisers, and farmers will be done through the Research for Development and Innovation System (R4DIS).

the products are being processed. At the back of the Dairy Box, there will be a dormitory-type facility to accommodate tourists or guests who opt to stay overnight," he added.

Cong. Estrella announced that the groundbreaking ceremony of the said building is slated on the third week of March.

Meanwhile, PCC@DMMMSU Center Director Gloria Dela Cruz encouraged everyone present in the event to continue promoting carabao-based entrepreneurship and patronize products made from carabao's milk.

Strong ties pave... From page 5

"I want this industry to flourish, thus, I really did my best to allocate Php15 million budget for the construction of a fully furnished two-story building that will complement this Dairy Box. We will put up a display center of various dairy products in it. Its interior will be instagrammable so customers will flock to it and keep coming back not only for its pleasant ambiance, but also for its delectable milk treats," he shared.

"The ground floor of the building is a restaurant and on the second floor is a glass-walled processing area so customers can view how

Some of the dairy products available in the store are purple corn ice cream, yogurt, fresh milk, chocomilk, lacto juice, polvoron, pastillas, special espasol and ube halaya. All of them, with carabao's milk as main ingredient, carry the brand name "Creamilicious".

Currently, the co-op tends more than 300 carabaos and harvests an average of 100 liters of milk a day.

"I would like to thank PCC and all those who have helped us in this undertaking. This enterprise has really changed our lives for the better," BSNMPC Chairman Rolly Mateo averred.



Graduates' testimonies of success highlight SOA-DBP graduation rites in South Cotabato

By Charlene Corpuz



“Participating in an activity such as this SOA-DBP for me is such a great experience. We learned a lot and we feel important playing a significant role as carabao farmers in contributing to the development of the dairy industry. When we know that the government is there to give us full support, we feel really motivated to do well in this endeavor”. [Arci Arceo, one of the graduates]

“Our venture in dairying has not been easy; we encountered obstacles since we started in 2013. But our commitment to this business is now paying off with the milk that we are able to collect from the buffaloes and the income that we derive from the sales. During our initial years, I and my fellow carabao raisers were having a hard time managing the dairy buffaloes but with the consistent support provided to us by PCC at University of Southern Mindanao (PCC@USM) and with the assistance of the Local Government Unit (LGU), we are now profitably benefitting from this undertaking,” Yolanda Paches, a dairy farmer and a SOA-DBP graduate, said.

In a graduation ceremony of the School-on-the-Air on Dairy Buffalo Production (SOA-DBP) held last February 26, 400 graduates assembled at a gymnasium in Sto. Niño, South Cotabato to receive their certificates of completion.

During fellowships, prior to and following the rites, graduates shared stories of their successes. Members of the Canahay Dairy Farmers Association (CADAFA), for example, recalled how they started in the dairy business and how this venture has earned their families sustainable income.

They all agree that the SOA-DBP,

as a platform, has inspired them to go further into this livelihood by continuous learning and application.

The SOA-DBP is a four-month radio program aired from October 2019 to February 2020 in Surallah, South Cotabato through PCC's collaboration with the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) – Region XII, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) – Region XII, Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation, South Cotabato Provincial Veterinary Office, Municipal Agricultural Offices of Norala, Surallah, Tandingan, Sto. Niño, Banga, Lake Sebu, Tupi, and

T'boli.

The program was aired over Radyo Bandera 98.1 News FM and Radyo Kahiusa 99.3 FM featuring the technologies on dairy buffalo production and management.

During the rites, each of the graduates were given planting paraphernalia such as shovel, drum, leash, camisole shirt, among others. The crowd got even more stirred up as a female carabao paraded at the venue as one of the raffle prizes.

An informative session called “ATIng Alamin”, was also conducted by ATI Region XII.

This session provided for a venue among the graduates to personally ask their questions to the various government officials who were present in the event. A farmer-to-farmer learning and sharing session also transpired, which made it possible for members of CADAFA to encourage fellow dairy farmers to start milking their carabaos.

On the other hand, Dominic Paclibar, one of PCC's buffalo recipients under the family module category and a progressive partner of PCC who decided to start up a dairy business, assured the dairy farmers of South Cotabato a sure

market for their produce. He offered to buy milk at Php75 per liter. To further encourage them to start milking their buffaloes, he even offered to fetch their milk produce door-to-door.

Paclibar's buying price per liter is significantly higher than the prevailing price in the area which is at Php50 to Php60.

“Each of us should contribute to the milk production of the country, particularly here in South Cotabato, through the support of the government,” Paclibar said.

The story of Juana: 'Carabao raising is for everyone'



By Charlene Joanino
Photo by Rowena Bumanlag

It has been years since Emily Velasco, 56, of Villa Joson, San Jose City, started her venture in carabao dairying. Her diligence and perseverance earned her the award "Modelong Juana sa Kalabawan" in 2017 from DA-PCC—proving that carapreneurship can be done by anyone and that not gender or anything can intervene once you commit to it.

Velasco engaged in carabao dairying so she could augment her family's income. She joined the Simulang Panibagong Bukas Producers Cooperative (SIPBUPCO) where she served as secretary for four years. She was one of the first few members who were entrusted with dairy buffaloes under the PCC's 25-Dairy Cow Module. Back then, she was the lone female dairy farmer of SIPBUPCO.

In 2012, Velasco rose to become one of the cooperative's Board of Directors. When SIPBUPCO became

a multi-purpose cooperative, she straight away engaged in milk collection.

At present, she has eight carabaos and three of these are from PCC.

Tucked away in the outskirts of San Jose town, Velasco owns a parcel of land where she had put up a shelter for her animals. She also planted napier grass and other feedstuff there.

She and her husband, who is a full-time employee in San Jose City, work together in their farm. The highest daily income they were able to earn is Php1,000 for 10 liters of carabao's milk, which they sold for Php60 per liter.

According to Velasco, the amount is sufficient for their family's daily needs and is actually even greater than her husband's take-home pay. This becomes her constant drive

To recognize the role and significant contribution of women in the dairy industry and to celebrate the 2020 National Women's Month this March, the DA-PCC proudly features the story of Emily Velasco, one of its assisted carapreneurs in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija.

Velasco serves not only as a role model in terms of being a devoted catechist, a good wife to her husband and mother to her children, but a successful carapreneur as well.

to make it good and continuously improve her dairy buffalo enterprise while taking care of her family.

Aside from milking her buffaloes, Velasco additionally earns from them in other means.

"Our buffaloes greatly helped us fund our eldest son's education by selling the males whenever there was an urgent need for school expenses. My son is now a licensed civil engineer," she proudly shared.

Another source of income for Velasco is vermicomposting. The technology makes use of carabao manure and African Night Crawlers to produce organic fertilizer called "vermicompost". Bimonthly, she collects about 10 sacks of fertilizer from the vermicompost pit, which earns her Php2,500.

She acquired her knowledge on vermicomposting at the Farmer Livestock School on Dairy Buffalo Production (FLS-DBP), which she attended in 2016. The FLS-DBP is a learning platform being facilitated by PCC, where farmers are presented with and taught of technology options.

"I believe that women have an advantage in the dairy business because of our caring nature. If your animals are well taken care of, you will reap the benefits of your hard work," Velasco stated.

In the future, Velasco dreams of raising more carabaos and processing dairy products. She said this dream is slowly realized as she recently attended, with the other cooperative members, a training on processing dairy products.

"Women are definitely not second-class players when it comes to buffalo dairying. We should not let our limitations hinder us from scoring our own success."

Emily Velasco

2017 Modelong Juana sa Kalabawan



Teacher-and seaman-turned...

The islands, which are believed to be two million years old, can easily mesmerize tourists, thus, provide business opportunities for local residents e.g., island and beach hopping.

While this is so, a couple from Brgy. San Roque chose to fix their eyes on a different, albeit more challenging venture. Theirs was to mine a treasure that they consider as “white gold”. This is not the precious metal that is used to make jewelry but the nutrient-rich whitish liquid that is buffalo’s milk.

Manuel and Olivia Palazo had no regrets shifting from one profession to another. While they were earning more than enough as a seaman and as a teacher, respectively, they both agree that dairying is a better choice.

“It’s easy money and we don’t need to work long hours every day so we get to spend more time with each other now unlike before,” Olivia said.

The couple believes that working with the family makes everything worthwhile. For them, it’s more than just a job, but a way of life and they see themselves engaged in this business for as long as they can.

Rough Start

Manuel and Olivia got involved in dairying in 2013 and just like many dairy farmers in Pangasinan, they started with crossbred buffaloes. While they were already producing milk, they slacked off and eventually totally stopped collecting and selling because of the lack of market demand.

They then ventured in various businesses such as soft drink dealing, poultry supply

distributorship, and livestock raising. While these provided for the family, the business was taking up too much of their time and required more labor and capital.

New Market

With the hopes of selling their produce, Olivia opted to vend on the side of the street hoping that motorists and passers by would notice. The seemingly unfavorable situation paved way for new patrons– Indians who are willing to pay for milk higher than the regular price. Working only for at most 4 hours a day, they are now earning 900 to 1,100 pesos daily.

“What we are producing is not enough to supply their (Indian) demand. We needed to produce more,” Olivia added.

It may be a bumpy start but Manuel and Olivia pinned their hope on the potential of dairy buffalo business. In 2017, they were back in full swing and decided to sell all their other livestock to focus on buffaloes.

Great Tandem

Working together as a team is an important part of their daily lives. Manuel is in charge of gathering forage while Olivia prepares the animals for milking.

“Once a teacher, always a teacher.” This old adage still rings true with Olivia since she did not lose her passion for learning and teaching. It is Olivia’s task to participate in training and seminars and share all her learnings not just to her husband but also to the other farmers in their community. She is an accredited Farmer Livestock School on Dairy Buffalo Production (FLS-DBP) facilitator. She facilitated the first

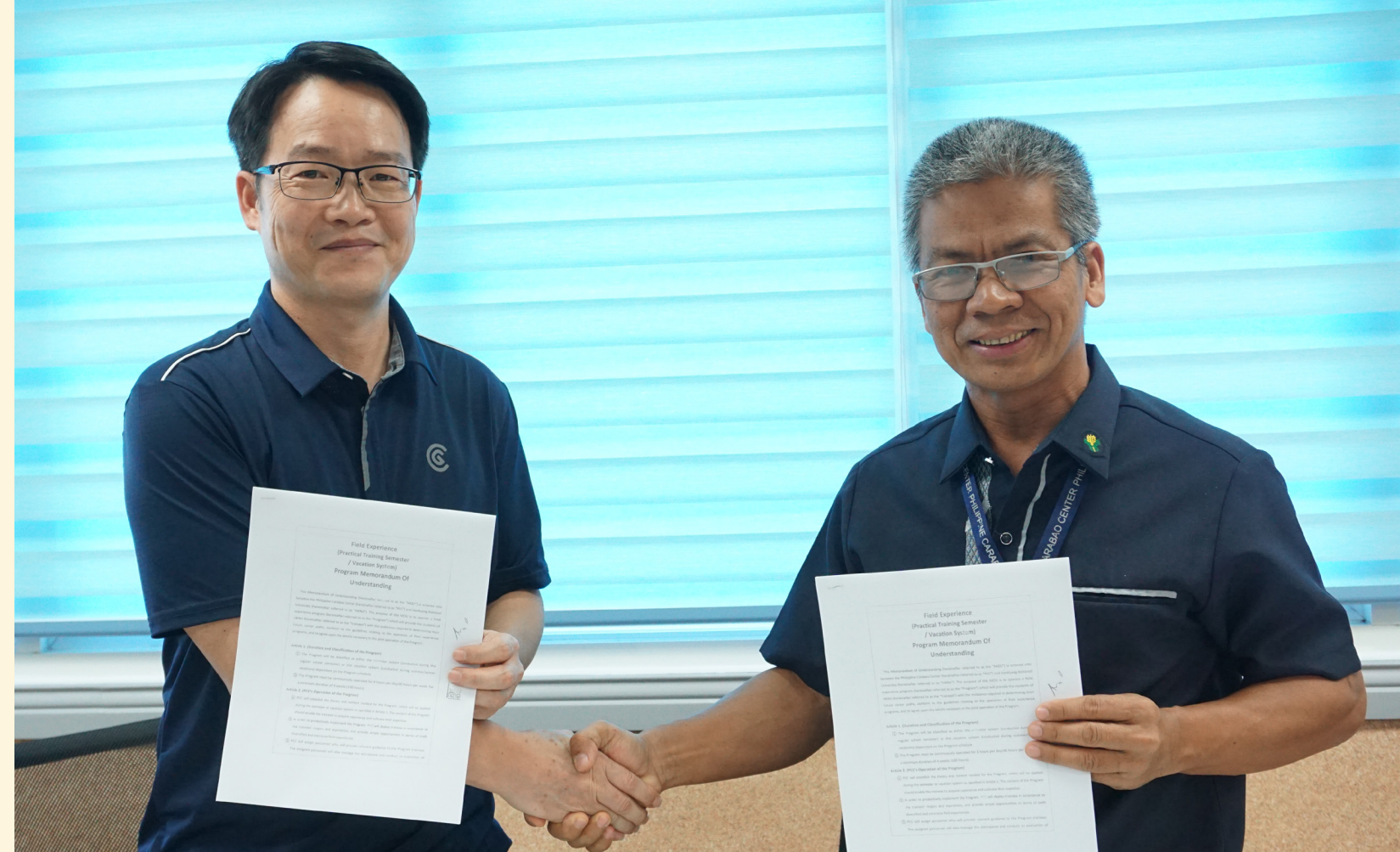
FLS-DBP in Pangasinan together with her co-facilitators trained by PCC.

With the couple’s committed teamwork, they are able to achieve promising results. The income they earn from dairying not only provides for their daily basic needs but also partially pays for a property, which they initially planned on selling someday to finance their daughter’s education. This plan, they said, might not pan out anyway because they are both faithful that their sales from milk can afford their daughter’s educational expenses.

Dreaming on together

With continuous hard work and patience, the Palazos hope to someday not only produce but also process milk and put up their own processing facility. It is a dream that they are starting to work on.

Their goal, however, is not to prosper just for themselves but for others as well by encouraging them to venture into dairy production.



DA-PCC, KOICA, HKNU collaborate to improve PH dairy farmers’ lives

By Chrissalyn Marcelo
Photo by Honeylyn Palileo

The DA-PCC, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Hankyong National University (HKNU) recently started its collaborative project titled, “Improving Income Generation of Farmers through the Enhancement of the Value Chain Capacity from Milk Production to Sales”.

According to Dr. In-Sik Nam, project manager, the collaboration aims to achieve the following: (1) improving productivity of dairy buffaloes and quality of dairy products, (2) activating high quality milk production technology, (3) expanding high quality hygiene and safety dairy product processing technology, (4) strengthening value chain capacity in the dairy sector, and (5) training

of farmers to improve the quality of local dairy farmers' life in the Philippines.

KOICA-volunteer and Public Relations (PR) and Information Technology (IT) head leader EunGyeom Ahn, meanwhile, said that some 20 smallhold farms that are yet to be identified by the PCC and KOICA will be the project beneficiaries.

“We also divided ourselves into four teams to ensure the smooth implementation of the project. The teams are the following: (1) dairy production, (2) milk processing, (3) milk hygiene and safety, and (4) PR and IT,” EunGyeom Ahn said.

The KOICA team is composed of

14 Korean volunteers and one field manager.

PCC Executive Director Dr. Arnel Del Barrio said that for PCC’s part, full support and assistance will be accorded to the KOICA volunteers to include sharing of database related to dairy production and management, providing an office space for the KOICA volunteers, and designating personnel who will directly assist the volunteers all throughout the duration of the project.

“This project is in support of the national dairy program and is aligned with DA’s goal of augmenting farmers’ yield and income,” he added.

The project will run for 18 months.



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