

Bubalus



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FEATURES

‘Dairy’ dose of family time

By Dine Yve Daganos

Carabao’s milk does not only strengthen bones but fortifies family ties as well. Annalyn Tade, 45, a mother of two, proves this as she now enjoys quality family time—the one important thing that she sacrificed while being bottled

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Carabao as a good source of meat underscored in PH Livestock Expo

By Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano

In dispelling the myths and misconceptions that carabao’s meat is tough and darker in color, thus hindering market acceptability, the DA-Philippine Carabao Center’s (DA-PCC) experts stressed that buffalo meat can be equal to, if not better than, the more popular and widely accepted beef.

Attesting to this are results of a series of studies conducted by the research team of the DA-PCC to compare the slaughter yields and carcass characteristics of crossbred buffalo and crossbred cattle at the same age and diet. It was found out that based on carcass quality evaluation, buffalo

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Editor's Word



In the business or marketing parlance, a mix of push and pull strategies is a standard practice. In push (outbound) marketing, you are promoting (advertising) your products or making them visible at the point of sale to customers. Pull (inbound) marketing does the opposite, i.e., you create a demand for or draw customers to your product and establish a loyal following for such product. The two approaches or strategies are visibly at work at the engagement nexus of the DA-Philippine Carabao Center with its partner farmer-cooperatives, private companies, and other government agencies.

Manifestations of these strategies are seen in the manner the Dairy Boxes (PCC-supported store outlets for dairy buffalo-derived milk products) are mushrooming in many parts of the country, thanks to the funding support of the Office of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform. This is a major push strategy of DA-PCC and its partners to showcase locally made dairy and milk-flavoured products. Anent to this, efforts are underway to standardize branding and operations of the Dairy Box outlets nationwide via creation of regional and national councils. When it comes to carabao's meat, DA-PCC is also flexing its "Kardeli", a brand the agency is attaching to premium quality carabao's meat. In the recently held Livestock Expo in Manila, this "reboot" of carabao's meat drew huge crowds, as they witnessed a demo of how various delicacies can be prepared out of it.

The pull strategy can be seen in the manner an institutional demand for locally produced milk was created by way of the RA 11037 (Masustansyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino Act) through the DepEd's School-Based Milk Feeding Program and the DSWD's Supplementary Feeding Program. Both agencies partnered with the DA-PCC and DA-NDA in making quality fresh milk or milk-based products available for consumption by undernourished children in grade schools and day-care centres. The DA-PCC-assisted cooperatives, alone, have, so far, supplied and earned close to 2 billion pesos worth of milk or milk-based products, which benefited some 4.2 million schoolchildren under these two feeding programs. Gone are the days where the local milk producers had difficulties marketing their produce because of RA 11037. This is really big pull for them.

We like to see a similar pull strategy for premium carabao's meat products. Currently, as per PSA data, some 400,000 head of carabaos are slaughtered annually for meat. We also import carabao's meat for use by the local meat processors. There is clearly a local demand for carabao's meat but a major percentage of the locally sourced ones ends up in the wet market in the guise of regular beef or, in many cases, it is sold as carabao's meat, which, traditionally, is being priced lower than the regular beef owing to misconceptions attached to the former. So, the challenges now are how to change the mindset of most beef consumers and how to sustain the supply especially of the Kardeli-type once the demand was created for this type of product.

Eric P. Palacpac
Dr. Eric P. Palacpac

About the cover

While being bottled up in a day job as a real estate agent for years, Annalyn Tade, 45, missed a lot of family gatherings. But all of these are now behind her as she finds more meaning in carapreneurship being a lucrative source of income and at the same time allows her to fulfill her duties as a wife and as a mother.

(Photo by Dine Yve D. Daganos)



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ASEAN researchers attend workshop on livestock biotech innovation

By Ronaline Canute and Grande Saturno



Understanding the use of livestock biotechnology in speeding up livestock food production to satisfy the demand of the world's growing population was the focus of the recent month-long intensive training at the DA-PCC National Headquarters and Gene Pool (NHGP) participated in by researchers from ASEAN member countries.

Said activity was conducted under the project titled "Capability building of ASEAN Biotechnology Researchers for Livestock Resiliency and Sustainability," which was held from July 4, 2022 to July 29, 2022.

Outputs of this development intervention all lead, ultimately, to boosting farmer's incomes, enhancing productivity as well as discovering better ways to manage livestock production amid climatic changes that affect the dynamics of the livestock industry.

Said training is also seen as an avenue to foster regional cooperation among ASEAN Member States (AMS) on biotechnology

research for livestock resiliency and sustainability by creating an enabling scientific environment for young researchers engaged in livestock innovations.

The participants include 14 researchers (one participant each from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand; two from the Philippines; two extra slots prioritized for Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam; and two researchers from Japan). The participants underwent a screening process, while the two participants from Japan were selected in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF).

The activities include orientation on the general objectives of the program and current developments in the livestock biotechnology in the Philippines, in Japan, and other countries; two-day research proposal writing workshop; training on different laboratory techniques; research proposal writing for the research collaboration; and presentation of significant findings

or knowledge and skills gained during the training.

Experts from DA-PCC research units and other local and international PCC collaborators who have relevant knowledge on Livestock Biotechnology were invited. Dr. Satoru Konnai from the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, Department of Disease Control, Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine in Hokkaido University served as a resource person on the current status of livestock biotechnology research in Japan.

The participants showed their key findings, newfound knowledge, and presented their own written proposals at the end of the training. They were also required to complete a pre- and post-evaluation to identify potential learning subjects and assess new information, abilities, and understanding they acquired over the month-long program.

"I hope that the Philippines not only imparted with you some breadth of scientific knowledge about the technologies that we have here, but also our own brand of hospitality. We are one as an ASEAN community, so we should act as one in development when it comes to sharing our knowledge and talents," said Dr. Claro Mingala, DA-PCC's Deputy Executive Director for Production and Research and Director of DA Biotech Program Office.

The final report and training results will be posted on the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) website. In order to maintain the initiatives and outputs of the training, DA-PCC will also work to establish ongoing collaboration with and among AMS taking off with the research proposals generated during the training. Participants were also encouraged to submit their research proposals to AJC to continue building up meaningful scientific collaborations. **B**

Milk Feeding Program benefits some 4.2M schoolchildren

By Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano

The DA-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) flexed about the beneficial impact of the Milk Feeding Program on nation-building and stakeholders' well-being, citing that the program provided a total gross revenue of PHP1.9 billion to 45 assisted cooperatives nationwide from 2019 to the first quarter of 2022, which benefited 4,277,285 undernourished children in public daycare, kindergarten, and elementary schools.

Joel Cabading, DA-PCC's milk feeding program coordinator, reported the good news on the first day of the two-day program titled "#WeFlex: Stakeholders Milk Feeding Program Achievements and Policy Consultation" held on August 22-23 at the agency's national headquarters and gene pool in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

Officials and employees of the Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), DA-PCC,

and some partner-carapreneurs participated in the said event.

Rolly Mateo, chairperson of Bantog Samahang Nayon Multipurpose Cooperative (BSNMPC), and Janice Domingo, general manager of Nueva Ecija Federation of Dairy Carabao Cooperatives (NEFEDCCO), corroborated the report and shared their respective testimonies and success stories regarding the program.

Mateo averred that their income from the Milk Feeding Program enabled them to purchase vehicles for delivery of milk, a packaging machine, a baking facility, and six hectares of farmland. It also created employment opportunities as they hired 116 workers for the venture.

Domingo, meanwhile, proudly shared that the Milk Feeding Program had helped their federation's assets increase from PHP8 million in 2018 to PHP28 million in 2021. It even provided jobs to 200 people in their

community and with the income they earned, they were able to renovate their office to a three-story building. She also admitted that the program helped them bounce back as they were ensnared in financial distress before they ventured into the feeding program.

"It's not about the DA-PCC but rather the effects that we planned to create side by side with our accountability partners that is to help curb the nutritional deficiencies of children and at the same time create livelihood opportunities for farmers through the National Feeding Program led by the DepEd and DSWD," DA-PCC Executive Director Dr. Liza Battad said.

Meanwhile, DepEd-Bureau of Learner Support Services Director Dr. Lope Santos III and DSWD Supplemental Feeding Program (SFP) Unit Head Ma. Elena Carreon gave their respective messages of support for the implementation of the 2022 School-Based Feeding Program and 12th SFP Cycle, respectively.

A policy consultation will be held on the second day wherein among the slated topics for discussion include Food Science of the Milk Feeding, Updates of Costing, Standardization of Milk Formulation, and Different Milk Product Terminologies.

The participants will also present the draft revised Milk Feeding Program Policy and Guidelines for finalization and approval.

The stories of the BSNMPC and NEFEDCCO are only two of the many successes in the implementation of the Milk Feeding Program. They serve as concrete proofs of the planned effects of the national feeding program that are worth flexing and sustaining. **B**



DA-PCC's Milk Feeding Program focals conduct cycle assessment, catch-up planning

By Gerald Ramos

The DA-PCC's nationwide commitment for the DepEd's School-based Feeding Program in 2022 has already reached 1,157,825 beneficiaries, 24.46% of such commitment were from its National Headquarters and Gene Pool (NHQGP). It is 5.07% higher than the 2019 level, which had 19.39% record of share in the national commitment. Moreover, two successful cycles of the supplementary feeding program of DSWD have been concluded while another milk feeding program is underway for the month of July.

These were some of the notable accomplishments highlighted during the recently conducted Cycle Assessment and Catch-up Planning for the Milk Feeding Program and Organizational Development Activity in San Juan, La Union.

Said activity was participated in by the agency's Milk Feeding staff members headed by newly designated DA-PCC National Milk Feeding Program Coordinator Joel F. Cabading and Central



Dairy Collection Processing Facility (CDCPF) Management and Processing personnel headed by Plant Manager Marivic A. Orge.

Republic Act 11037 also known as the "Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act" unlocked opportunities for DA-PCC to extend its hand to its assisted dairy local farmers and cooperatives. This law generally aims to improve the

nutritional status of undernourished children and at the same time create market channels for the milk products of local dairy farmers.

Aside from the increased number of beneficiaries, the DA-PCC now provides services from 15 Schools Division Offices (SDO) of DepEd in 2019 to 19 SDOs after extending its area of milk supplementation from

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Dairy co-op in NE sets to operate PHP2.8M dairy processing center

By Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano

The Simula ng Panibagong Bukas Multipurpose Cooperative (SIPBU MPC) in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija has taken its dairy enterprise to the next level, as it will soon have its own processing facility for value-added dairy products.

This was after the co-op signed, today, August 12, a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Department of Agrarian Reform-Nueva Ecija Provincial Office

(DARPO), DA-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC), LGU-San Jose City, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for the Enhancement of the Dairy Processing Center under the DAR's Village Level Farm-Focused Enterprise Development Project.

Said project aims to establish viable and profitable enterprises and facilitate access to mainstream

markets, allowing the participation of smallholder farmers and other members of the community in various livelihood opportunities within the dairy value chain.

The co-op's collection center will be upgraded to a two-story structure for the processing and production of different milk products, including the Karabun, a nutrient-rich bread

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DA-PCC, DAR-NE partner against hunger and poverty in Ecija

By Dine Yve Daganos



The Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) and Department of Agrarian Reform-Nueva Ecija (DAR-NE) sealed their commitment on Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) program with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

EPAHP is a strategic collaboration of government agencies to battle hunger, food and nutrition insecurity, and poverty.

DA-PCC Executive Director Dr. Liza Battad, DA-PCC at Central Luzon State University Center Director Dr. Ericson Dela Cruz, DAR Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer (PARPO) II Eden Ponio and PARPO I Josephine K.

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meat is comparable to beef in terms of carcass yields, processing traits, and sensory characteristics.

Dr. Arnel Del Barrio, former DA-PCC executive director, reechoed such findings in his presentation on “Potential of Buffalo Meat as Beef” during the Livestock Philippines Expo 2022.

“The DA-PCC promotes buffalo as a good source not only of milk but also of quality meat. If the male buffaloes are not fit for breeding, then they are qualified to be fattened and marketed for a good quality meat. The agency already has initiatives to develop a breeding program for buffalo meat production as well,” Dr. Del Barrio said.

As for the economic viability of carabao’s meat, the Head of DA-PCC’s Business Development and Commercialization Unit Zadieshar

Sanchez assures potential investors of carabao fattening and Kardeli retail business that, through collaboration and available technologies, there is a ready market for their products and the economic potential of this venture is very promising.

Kardeli is the DA-PCC’s brand of premium carabao’s meat. It is available at the Milka Krem in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

Sanchez was also invited as one of the resource persons in the expo wherein he tackled the economic viability of value-added carabao meat products.

“According to our ongoing study, there is a ready market for carabao’s meat and opportunities for this commodity are many. To fully realize this potential, more carabao fattening farms need to be raised,” he stated.

The DA-PCC has also conducted studies and breeding technologies for the purpose and ensures that the market is ready to absorb fattened animals that are about to be produced in the future.

To further prove the agency’s claims on the carabao’s meat, a cooking demo hosted by DA-PCC was also held at the Livestock Expo with Chef Francis Sibal, Executive Chef of CZ Ranch Restaurant.

Chef Sibal demonstrated how to cook different cuts of carabao’s meat featuring signature dishes from Kardeli’s cara-riblets, kielbasa and Hungarian sausage, and tenderloin steak. Immediately after, he offered a free sample of the prepared dish to hundreds of visitors who flocked to the booth to witness the demo.

“To see so many people shocked that what they were tasting was

Aguinaldo signed the said MOU today at DA-PCC Milka Krem, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

“One priority agenda of the current administration is on boosting food production which will ultimately lead to food sufficiency,” Ponio said.

The MOU specified that both agencies will provide the participating Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organizations (ARBOs) or Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) with support services for improved farm productivity through capacity building and technical support, infrastructure and facilities, access to financial assistance, and market assistance.

The participating ARBOs/ CBOs will be linked to prospective markets primarily the national feeding program of DepEd and DSWD which addresses malnutrition among Filipino children, as well as promotes the local dairy industry.

Five initial ARBOs and CBOs in Nueva Ecija were identified as beneficiaries to include: Eastern Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Simula ng Panibagong Bukas (SIPBU) Multi-purpose Cooperative, Catalanacan Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CAMPC), Bongabon Agriculture Cooperative, and Delaen Farmers Agriculture Cooperative.

“Sa lahat po ng ating magiging engagement, we can share with you whatever we have in terms of

capacity building kasi iyon po ang strength namin. Sa DAR, we put premium importance on people as the lead or prime movers of development,” Ponio said.

Dr. Battad also added that qualified ARBOs/CBOs under the Supplemental Feeding Program and related feeding programs will be accommodated soon with small-scale groups as priorities.

“Be assured na maliban dito sa limang nabanggit ay mayroon pang iba. Actually they are our champion cooperatives, kaya’t partner po tayo on helping build up relatively newer cooperatives because that is where assistance will be mostly needed,” Dr. Battad underscored. **B**

carabao’s meat only shows that there’s so much more room to grow for this local product. Don’t conform to the norm, carabao’s meat is more than just tapa, just wait and see,” Chef Sibal asserted.

The DA-PCC was among the roster of more than 200 exhibitors who featured their products, services, technologies, and other innovations to more than 3,500 participants from all walks of the livestock industry during the three-day Livestock Philippines Expo 2022 held on August 24-26 at the World Trade Center Manila, Pasay City.

Senator Mark Villar graced the event and expressed his fervent support to help boost the livestock, poultry, and dairy sectors in the country.

“As a government official and legislator, I want to express my full support for this livestock summit and trade fairs. I believe

it is through these trade fairs that we will quickly move to the development of our agriculture sector and the whole economy as well,” Sen. Villar said.

The Livestock Expo is considered

to be the premier international trade platform for industry stakeholders. It is organized by international exhibition expert group Informa Markets and is hosted by the Department of Agriculture. **B**



‘Calculated’ success in Dairy Box operation

By Rhea Mae Ruba

Anyone who bets on a new business venture would be more than willing to do what it takes to predict its end game.

Having a clear foresight on how the venture will sustainably grow gives an entrepreneur confidence in the business. This is the overarching message of “Masaganang Benta Doble Kita”—the tagline for the recently launched “Dairy Box Investment Calculator” via Zoom last August 18 at the DA-Philippine Carabao Center headquarters, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

Said tool, developed by the Planning and Information Management Division (PIMD), assesses the

feasibility of opening a Dairy Box in a particular location. It will serve as a management tool to examine the cost and sales strategy of the market, to assess the profitability of the business, and to set a daily sales target.

Using the calculator, an investor will be able to see the actual amount of investment that is circulating in the business. Such data can help the investor firm up a decision on whether to pursue or proceed with the venture or not.

PIMD’s Jan Czarina Salas, Mica Lindain and Aira Soriano, who introduced the calculator, said investors would save up on software

development and accounting fees if they knew how to utilize the system.

“Dairy Box to me is an analogy of viability and continual improvement. I look at it as a model to elevate the business confidence of our assisted cooperatives and private investors that they may sustainably champion what the Dairy Box is meaningfully advocating for,” said DA-PCC Executive Director Dr. Liza Battad.

The highlight of introducing the Dairy Box Investment Calculator is that investors can visualize the potential of the dairy business in the market, as it provides the numerical presentation of demands and revenues for the products.

PIMD’s Joshua Villanueva, who developed the calculator, said that their team aims to support the investors of dairy box outlets to analyze the entire process and progress of the business. Having

DA-PCC to form regional, national councils for Dairy Box standardization

By Chrissalyn Marcelo

The Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) will form regional and national councils for standardizing the 24 Dairy Box stores in the country following its agreement with its clients and carabao-based enterprise development (CBED) coordinators to form such a body.

The agreement was made during the conduct of the Dairy Box Standardization Workshop of DA-PCC in Iloilo (for Visayas and Mindanao clusters) and Baguio City (Luzon cluster) last June 1-2 and July 7-8, respectively.

Dairy Box is a physical store, which brings the carabao farmers’ buffalo-derived products closer to the market. It was launched by the DA-PCC in the Science City of Muñoz,

Nueva Ecija in 2015 and continuously multiplying across the country after the said launching.

Dairy Box standardization lead and Project Evaluation Officer Jan Czarina Salas said the initiative started when the DA-PCC observed that the multiplication of the said stores varies when it comes to branding and operations, hence, the need to form regional and national councils that will oversee such concerns.

Based on the agreement, the regional and national councils will each have an organized set of officers including its chairperson, vice-chairperson, and others.

The regional council will be formed in the 12 regional centers of DA-

PCC across the country while the national council will be organized through the election of chairpersons coming from the regional councils. It will be composed of stakeholders coming from both of the public and the private sectors including the farmer-beneficiaries of the Dairy Boxes and the DA-PCC. Said councils will also be assisted by the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) whose services include formulation of sound policies, plans and program for both the public and the private sectors.

The workshop was conducted through lectures and hands-on training. Dr. Edilyn Lansangan, DA-PCC Financial Analyst Giselle Sacupaso, and DA-PCC Science Research Specialist Pauline Maramag served as the resource persons

knowledge in deliberating and measuring plans for the business helps in the long run.

Meanwhile, Salas, DA-PCC's focal person for the Dairy Box, discussed the Objective Key Results (OKR) that are set for the operation of the dairy outlet including decrease in monthly "days with flagship product stockout", increase in average daily foot traffic, and increase in average transaction size.

These OKR, in combination with the Dairy Box Investment Calculator, could exponentially grow the business. The developers said this is a strategic move toward fulfilling the ambition of the Carabao-based Business Improvement Network (CBIN) project in establishing an inclusive, sustainable, and highly competitive local dairy industry. **B**

during the activity. They talked about competitive marketing strategies for dairy retail store operations, inventory and basic cash management, and record management tools.

Initial deliberation and sharing on the following items were also discussed as part of the urgent concerns that need to be addressed by the councils: (1) Product Mix, (2) Store Merchandizing, (3) Marketing and Promotion, (4) Record Keeping, and Cash and Inventory Management, (5) Guidelines in Promotion and Distribution; and (6) Creation of partnership and sustainability programs particularly in hiring of focal person per regional centers, partner qualification, and incentive mechanism. **B**

First ever Dairy Box in CALABARZON to boost local agri-tourism

By Ronaline Canute



Referred to by historians as "a little piece of paradise", Jalajala, Rizal is soon to boast yet another attraction aside from its scenic landscape formations.

Soon to rise in the town is the first ever Dairy Box in CALABARZON.

The chosen site is close to Laguna de Bay, the country's largest lake, making it the backdrop for the future carabao-based products outlet. For tourists who love to experience the calming waves of the lakeshore, including recreational activities during weekends, the Dairy Box is a good stopover for that fresh and natural dairy delicatessen.

The Llano Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (LFMPC), which started dairy processing in 2006, will oversee its operation. Through the DA-Philippine Carabao Center at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (DA-PCC at UPLB), 45 members of the LFMPC were entrusted with crossbred carabaos,

of which 19 are already pregnant.

LFMPC, with over 200 members to date, has been serving as a channel of blessing to the locals whose main source of income is agriculture. They buy fresh milk from dairy farmers at PHP70 per liter.

"Lubos ang pasasalamat namin kasi naging kaagapay kami ng aming mga kababayan sa paglutas ng problema ng unemployment. Hindi po namin 'yon magagawa kundi rin sa tulong ng iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno na laging nakasuporta sa amin," shared Tagumpay Panguito, manager of LFMPC.

The co-op is also an active partner of the Department of Education (DepEd) in the implementation of the national milk feeding program.

A groundbreaking and ceremonial entrustment of dairy carabaos was held in Bayugo, Jalajala, Rizal last August 15.

Punch in a scoop!

Karabella launches new gen of gelato

By Ronaline Canute



Karabella Dairy, a social enterprise that proudly uses 100% carabao's milk and natural ingredients in its products, launches a new line of its artisanal gelato in partnership with Destileria Limtuaco & Co. Inc., the oldest extant distillery in the country.

The newly introduced flavors were Amadeo (coffee liqueur gelato), Very Old Captain (artisan crafted dark rum), Intramuros (liqueur de cacao gelato), Paradise (mango rum liqueur gelato), and Manille (liqueur de calamansi gelato).

"These were very own brands by Filipino craft spirits, and we try to

limit our suppliers and work with local farmers and cooperatives. The use of 100% carabao's milk was a factor in the decision since we don't like to compromise on quality and we want a 100% natural product," stated Alfred Ng, Karabella Dairy's president and chief financial officer.

Olivia Limpe-Aw, CEO of Destileria Limtuaco & Co., on the other hand, said Karabella and their company share the same goal of promoting quality local products.

Karabella Dairy sources its fresh carabao's milk from the General Trias Dairy Raisers

Multi-Purpose Cooperative (GTDRMPC), a cooperative assisted by the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (DA-PCC at UPLB).

GTDRMPC chairperson Samuel Potante said that Karabella Dairy picks up about 200 liters of fresh carabao's milk weekly from them.

"Sana magtuluy-tuloy ang partnership namin with Karabella kasi napakalaking-tulong nito sa mga farmers, lalo na ngayong wala pang milk feeding program sa aming lugar," Potante hopefully said. **B**

FLS-DBP for CCDP in Leyte

By Emy Goritte Gorra

The Coconut-Carabao Development Project (CCDP) site in Carigara, Leyte launched its season-long Farmer Livestock School on Dairy Buffalo Production (FLS-DBP) on July 19 at Macalpi Gymnatorium, Carigara, Leyte.

To improve the dairy buffalo management capability of farmer-beneficiaries, the

project adopted the FLS modality where they will undergo one to three hours of hands-on and practice-oriented trainings in once-a-week sessions on the topics relevant to their needs starting July 28. The FLS-DBP will then be facilitated by accredited trainers from the province who previously underwent a Facilitators Learning Workshop on FLS-DBP last April 18 to May 3

in Baybay City, Leyte.

Ms. Rovelyn Jacang, Science Research Specialist I of DA-PCC's Knowledge Management Division, expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the local government unit and beneficiaries for embracing and supporting the project since day one.

Carigara, along with Maasin City (Southern Leyte), Basey (Samar), Catubig (Northern Samar), and Biliran (Biliran),

CDP KIOSKs in the regions

By Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano



To provide easy access to its knowledge products and information about the Carabao Development Program (CDP), the DA-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) has set up CDP KIOSK (Karunungan, Impormasyon at Oportunidad sa Kalabawan) units at the select clients in the agriculture sector.

The CDP KIOSK, initiated and facilitated by the Knowledge Management Division-Learning Events Coordination Section, is one way of supporting the

dissemination of information about the DA-PCC's dairy buffalo production programs, services, and technologies, as well as the distribution of the agency's knowledge products.

Currently, three CDP KIOSKs were already installed at the Municipal Agriculture Offices in Surallah, South Cotabato and Carigara, Leyte, and Caraga State University in Butuan City. Other strategic areas identified for CDP KIOSK installation include the Municipal Agriculture Office

in Mati, Davao Oriental and the Provincial Agriculture Office in Albay.

The CDP KIOSK comprises three materials, i.e., portable display panels, a table with a brochure holder, and a magazine rack.

The identified recipients will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement for the installation of the CDP KIOSK, which also aims to transfer the accountability of the installed facility to the recipients. **B**

will be the first CCDP sites to conduct FLS-DBP in Eastern Visayas. The FLS-DBP is part of the DA-PCC's implementation of the CCDP, which is an initiative of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform.

"We are fortunate that we have this kind of training for our farmers," Mayor Eduardo Ong Jr. said in his message.

He also highlighted the opportunity of the project for the farmers to increase the

sustainability of dairy buffalo production in the municipality. The area is also known for its "pastillas" made from carabao's milk.

On behalf of the beneficiaries, Macalpi Community Multipurpose Cooperative (MCMC) Chairperson Norma Uribe showed her commitment to the FLS-DBP.

The launching was also attended by LGU-Carigara: SB Member/Committee Chairperson on Agriculture Lorna Marpa,

OIC-PCDM Minerva Langco of Leyte Province, Municipal Agriculturist Engr. Josefina Josol, Macalpi Brgy. Captain Ador Bodo, PCA R8: Acting PDO III and CCDP Focal Lourdes Grabador, OIC-PCDM for Leyte Province Minerva Langco, Darwin Hernandez, Kangara Multipurpose Cooperative (KMPC) Manager Dominador Sudario, PCC: Camille De Gracia (Administrative Assistant V), Senior Science Research Specialist Ivy Fe Lopez, Sunshine Sabidalas (Administrative Assistant) and PDO Ruth Segovia. **B**

DA-PCC's Milk Feeding Program focals...

From Page 5

Regions 2 and 3 to the National Capital Region (NCR). This progress also paves the way to creating a direct market for more DA-PCC-assisted milk feeding suppliers, from four cooperatives and one federation in 2019 to six cooperatives and one federation in 2022.

The activity also had a discussion, facilitated by Orge, where identified issues and concerns throughout the value chain from the previous and on-going cycles of the milk feeding program were tackled and provided with possible solutions. Several plans and actions were developed to cope with the dynamic changes affecting the implementation of the program.

An Organizational Development Activity, facilitated by Cabading, was conducted as well to develop individual capacity among the participants in pursuing and accomplishing their respective tasks and responsibilities.

Furthermore, the participants were given a group activity to impart their knowledge on how they function as a group to contribute to the overall success of the team and the improvement of the service being provided to partners and clients.

In this particular assembly, team building activities were also given to the participants in order to develop a team that strategically provides action to solve the given task.

This activity aims to hone the whole group to function as one and be able to identify their specific tasks and utilize their strengths and knowledge to minimize errors that might hinder the progress of the program. **B**



EASIS Project Phase 3 kicks off with ToT

By Ronaline Canute and Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano

The Extension and Advisory Services Information System (EASIS) project of the DA-PCC through the Knowledge Management Division (KMD) in partnership with the Grameen Foundation Philippines is now on its third phase, which involves rolling out of the developed mobile applications for utilization by extension officers (EO), village-based field veterinarians, and technicians.

The EASIS is a three-phase project of the DA-PCC with Grameen. The latter developed two mobile applications known as the KBGAN iHealth and KBGAN iFeed in consultation with DA-PCC's technical experts in the fields of animal health and nutrition. These apps aim to ultimately improve the extension and advisory services provided by DA-PCC on enhanced dairy buffalo production and management of small-scale carabao farmers.

In the just-concluded three-day Training of Trainers (TOT) at the DA-PCC national headquarters

in the Science City of Muñoz, the participants (carabao-based enterprise development coordinators and LGU partners from the rollout sites) were trained thoroughly on the proper usage of the apps. Said partners in the implementation of the project will soon transfer and introduce the apps to village-based technicians within their areas of coverage.

The phase three of the project has a program summary timeline that started last May and will conclude by January of 2023. It includes orientation and consultation with area partners, enlisting of carabao farmers, baseline survey of farmers, and reporting of the results of the survey. Meanwhile, phases one and two included, among others, the production of learning videos and the development of mobile apps.

During the action planning, the participants pledged their commitment and support to the implementation of the project. **B**

Dairy co-op in NE sets to operate PHP2.8M...

From Page 5

made with fresh carabao's milk. Such development is one of the SIPBU MPC's strategic plans to diversify revenue streams through value-added products.

As stipulated in the MOA, the SIPBU MPC, DARPO, and LGU San Jose City shall chip in PHP1.8M, PHP300,000, and PHP700,000, respectively, for the construction of the processing center.

The DA-PCC, on the other hand, will provide necessary training and technical support on carabao health and dairy production management, record keeping, milk quality, and product development. It will also assist in establishing a dairy processing center, a Karabun production facility, and marketing strategies.

The DTI will provide, among others, technical and extension assistance in the improvement of the processing facility through the provision of processing equipment or shared service facility.

Meanwhile, the DOST will provide technical assistance in the acquisition of a license to operate (LTO), crafting the Good Manufacturing Practices

manual by providing a series of training, product laboratory testing for nutrition facts and shelf life analysis, and technology consultancy.

"The project can bring livelihood and income opportunities to 78 family members of the cooperative. The co-op's current supply of at least 350 liters of milk production daily is sold only as raw milk, which has a lower value. With the help of the facility, the farmers can produce quality products and earn more profit," Joel Cabading, DA-PCC's OIC of the Carabao-based Enterprise Development Section, said.

SIPBU MPC chairperson Freddie Carlos accepted the challenge and vowed to do their part for the project to pan out. The facility, he said, would help them satisfy the milk demand of the National Feeding Program.

"Lubos po kaming nagpapasalamat sa DAR, LGU, DTI, at DOST sa walang sawang pagsuporta gayundin sa DA-PCC sa patuloy na paglinang sa aming kakayahan upang mapagtagumpayan ang negosyong salig sa kalabaw," Carlos expressed. **B**

First ever Dairy Box in CALABARZON...

From Page 9

The father of the town, Mayor Elmer Pillas expressed his support for the project saying that this will not only create livelihood for the locals but also help boost tourism and promote local products.

Rizal Governor Nina Ricci Ynares, former Executive Director of DA-PCC Dr. Arnel del Barrio, DA-PCC's Deputy Executive Director for Administration and Finance Dr. Caro Salces, and a representative from the Office of Sen. Cynthia Villar Engr. Renz Aquino graced the event.

Various national agencies and local government units such as the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) IV-A, Department of Agriculture (DA) IV-A, Department of Trade and Industry IV-A, Department of Agrarian Reform-Rizal IV-A, Office of the Municipal Mayor, and Office of the Provincial Governor also attended the occasion each with their own pledge of support to the project.

The construction of the Dairy Box is a component of the project Carabao-based Business Improvement Network (CBIN) popularized as Accelerating Livelihood Assets Buildup (ALAB) Karabawan of the DA-PCC. It was funded by the Office of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform through its chairperson Senator Cynthia Villar and is geared towards providing income opportunities to farmers and progressing the carabao dairy industry. **B**



DA-PCC scientist is PRC's 2022 Outstanding Veterinarian

By Dine Yve Daganos



DA-PCC Deputy Executive Director for Production and Research Dr. Claro N. Mingala was recently named Outstanding Veterinarian in the 2022 Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Awards last July 29 held at The Manila Hotel with the theme PRC@49: “Forging Ahead Towards Professionalism, Resiliency, and Competitiveness.”

Dr. Mingala, who was also recently conferred the rank of Scientist IV under the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and Department of Science and Technology (DOST), was recognized for his commitment and noteworthy contributions in the fields of veterinary research and animal biotechnology while serving farming communities as a PCCean. He is among the few selected individuals to receive the PRC Outstanding Professionals of the Year Award for 2022.

The two other categories include Outstanding Accredited Professional Organization of the Year and the Nubla

Excellence Award. “Professionalism, resiliency, competitiveness—all these are distinct qualities highly required among professionals today to be able to come to terms with the changing work environment,” Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Hon. Bienvenido Laguesma said in a written message read by DOLE Legislative and Legal Affairs Undersecretary Atty. Felipe Egargo Jr.

“It is my hope that you will continue to be effective models of professionalism, resiliency, and competitiveness as we all respond to present-day challenges. In so doing, we inspire others to become beacons of hope and change,” he underscored.

Beyond the recognition, the PRC awards aim to breed the values of professionalism, integrity, responsibility, competence, and excellence among workers in different fields of discipline while championing nationwide progress. **B**

CSC Regional HAP names DA-PCC officials ‘Outstanding Government Employees’

By Dine Yve Daganos

DA-PCC OIC Executive Director Dr. Caro B. Salces and Supervising Science Research Specialist Dr. Peregrino G. Duran each received the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Pagasa Award in the recent 2022 Search for Outstanding Government Employees Regional Honor Awards Program (HAP)-Region 3.

CSC Field Office DA/DENR Director Fe P. Lacaba formally conferred the award on Drs. Salces and Duran with a certificate in a ceremony with DA-PCC staff held in Doña Josefa, Quezon City on July 6, 2022.

“Ito ay simbolo hindi lang sa amin but

DA-PCC has new career scientist

By Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano

Dr. Marvin Villanueva, Senior Science Research Specialist and OIC Chief of the Research and Development Division/Chief of the Livestock Biotechnology Center, has joined the DA-PCC's growing pool of career scientists after he was conferred a Scientist I rank under the Agricultural Sciences Division of the Scientific Career System (SCS) effective May 20, 2022.

The conferment of Dr. Villanueva makes him the 8th active career scientist of the agency.

The SCS is “a system of recruitment, career progression, recognition and reward of scientists in the government service as a means of developing a pool of highly qualified and productive scientific personnel”. Its program is being administered by the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) under the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and the Civil Service Commission. An Outstanding Young Scientist awardee in 2021, Dr. Villanueva is a graduate of Doctor

simbolo ng ating agency at officemates,” said Dr. Salces.

With four other CSC awardees from DA-PCC last year, he noted that these consecutive recognitions are reflective of the exceptional workers that the agency breeds. In addition, he said that the award is a result of the team effort and passion of each PCCean from across the network.

“I know marami din sa mga kasama natin sa DA-PCC are deserving (of this award). Hindi lang kami ni Doc Bong ang nagsipag at naging committed, marami pang iba sa atin,” he said.

“The culture of excellence, professionalism, integrity, innovativeness, commitment at saka socio-ecological responsiveness (EPIICS) –itong ating kultura (sa PCC) ang nagdala sa atin upang magawa ang mga kailangan nating gawin to provide quality services sa ating mga kliyente,” added Dr. Salces.

Dr. Duran corroborates this statement

by saying that his years in the agency are purpose-driven with the mission to provide quality services to farmers in order to improve their livelihood.

“Every encounter with successful farmers whose livelihood depends greatly on their carabao gives me joy and assurance that our jobs keep this system,” Dr. Duran said.

“I will continue with the mission that God entrusted to me, and may

we continue to have progress in this industry;” he concluded.

The CSC Pagasa Award is given to individuals or groups for outstanding contribution/s resulting from idea or performance that benefit more than one department of the government. The two awardees will advance to the national screening of said award. The announcement of national winners is yet to be scheduled. **B**



of Philosophy in Veterinary Medicine at Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan with a specialization in Bacterial Zoonotic Diseases.

Dr. Villanueva, together with his team, developed advanced/molecular-based diagnostic tests for sensitive detection of livestock diseases such as interferon-gamma release assay for bovine tuberculosis, and loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) test for bovine leptospirosis. These sensitive and rapid diagnostic tests are currently used in the country for faster disease detection and initiation of treatment and control measures.

In his desire to address immediate problems in the livestock industry particularly in animal health, he is currently collaborating with local and international experts and institutions on the development of autogenous vaccine and pen-side nanosensor-based diagnostic tool, antimicrobial resistance, solidification of biosecurity protocols using smart technologies, and development of rapid diagnostic kits and novel therapeutics against economically imperative diseases in the Philippines.

His recent involvement is the development of KGBAN iHealth mobile app as part of the Extension and Advisory Services Information (EASIS) Project between the DA-PCC and the Grameen Foundation.

Dr. Villanueva's scientific journey and passion are also heavily influenced by his commitment to work and uphold the mission of his agency, which is to serve the Filipino farmers and promote the improvement of their

welfare, particularly those in the livestock sector, in order to create a food-secure, economically sustainable, and safe Philippines.

The DA-PCC recognizes Dr. Villanueva's accomplishments, specifically in developing technology to prevent and mitigate buffalo diseases. His significant research outputs have been and will continue to be a crucial contribution to the development of the livestock sector. **B**



Dr. Liza Battad officially assumes DA-PCC directorship, bares plans for carabao industry

By Chrissalyn Marcelo

Dr. Liza Battad, Executive Director III of the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC), has returned to her mother agency following her designations at the DA central office as Assistant Secretary for Regulations and concurrent OIC Executive Director of Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF).

In a welcome ceremony, Dr. Battad shared her plans before the employees of the agency at its national headquarters in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

She said that her leadership will focus more on improving the carabao industry through policy research, policy development, policy advocacy and co-implementation of programs and projects with the right industry partners and stakeholders.

She underscored the importance of aligning the agency's programs and projects to the Value Creation for Improved Productivity, Profitability, and Sustainability (VIPPS) concept which serves as the agency's strategic plan to impact on the industry. Such felt relevance, she said, is manifest in the

increased number of services to clients,

production of genetically improved calves, volume and value of milk production, and a vibrant local milk production in the country.

She also emphasized on fostering an enabling work environment such that the agency's human resource can co-create productively guided by a "happy pressure" attitude. She said this could ultimately translate to the overall performance of the agency to meaningfully serve its clients.

"At the end of the day, our agency is measured by the impact we are creating in the industry. Thus, we shall align our programs to VIPPS and continue to promote science-based and -oriented enterprises across the dairy and meat value chains," Dr. Battad said.

Dr. Battad ended her speech by encouraging PCCeans to do their best in service provision, become an inspiration to their co-workers, and help the agency propel a developed carabao sector.

Prior to her placement at the DA central office, Dr. Battad was also formerly DA-PCC's chief of the Planning and Information Management Division and also chief of the Administrative and Finance Management Division. **B**

"At the end of the day, our agency is measured by the impact we are creating in the industry. Thus, we shall align our programs to VIPPS and continue to promote science-based and -oriented enterprises across the dairy and meat value chain."

Dr. Liza G. Battad
DA-PCC Executive Director

FEATURES

Saving the native carabao: A rescue mission in Ifugao

By Jetro Magnayon and Lilian Villamor

(Photo by Lilian P. Villamor)



Located at the foot of the Cordillera mountain range, Ifugao is a lush province blessed with its scenic terrain, rivers, valleys, and enormous forests. It is also home to the Eighth World Wonder, the Banaue Rice Terraces, to boast.


This wonder is even enriched with the province's cultural heritage expressed with its indigenous rituals and traditions that are observed during social occasions. Such is the spiritual ritual "Honga" cañao, which is commonly carried out by their "Mumbaki". The ritual involves butchering a carabao as an offering for healing and protection. This makes the carabao not just an important agricultural commodity but also an icon of the rich Ifugao culture.

As the popularity of the carabao continued to rise in Ifugao celebrations, the high market demand of its population inversely and steadily declined to an alarming state. Simultaneously, the detrimental effects of climate change such as heat stroke, dry spell, and super typhoon caused animal deaths. If this pattern continues, this will contribute to loss of local or domestic animal diversity. It is against

this backdrop that a conservation strategy has to be put in place so that the native carabao in Ifugao can continue to play its essential role in the community. With this mission in mind, DA-PCC at CSU initially expressed their willingness to organize the artificial insemination (AI) training for the local government unit. Also, an initiative to help the local animal health program is underway with the collection of blood samples from native carabaos in three municipalities for screening by the DA-PCC's Biosecurity and Environment Section. The same specimens were submitted to the National Livestock Cryobank for morphological assessment and molecular characterization. A group of researchers from the DA-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) visited Lamut, a municipality in Ifugao, where pilot activities on carabao conservation will be operationalized. The same visit to discuss how to work out the plan was conducted in Banaue and Lagawe, two of its biggest municipalities. The meeting and coordination were spearheaded by a team led by Engineer Michael Tegui-in, the municipal agriculturist in Lagawe and Dr. James S. Gopeng, provincial veterinary officer, together with Dr. Rovina R. Pinera, OIC center chief of DA-PCC at

Cagayan State University, and a group of researchers from the DA-PCC national headquarters including Dr. Ester Flores, Lilian Villamor, Therese Patricia Cailipan, Dr. Phoebe Llantada, Dr. Karl Bantug and Jetro Magnayon.

Establishing the DNA profiles of the carabaos is vital in exploring the genetic diversity of the species to better understand the similarities and differences of the lineages of the Philippine carabao. While the Ifugaos utilize the carabao as a farm help and as a valuable offering during community celebrations and rituals, the locals have signified their commitment to support the conservation efforts.

The knowledge on the pattern of genetic variability within and between carabao populations is pertinent to developing rational conservation programs for the Philippine carabao. 

'Dairy' dose of family time

From page 1

up in a day job for years. The Labor Survey of the Philippine Statistics Authority in 2019 shows that Filipinos spend an average of 43.2 hours weekly at work—leaving less to no time for quality bonding with the family.

As a real estate broker to a development company, Annalyn shared she missed many family dinners and weekend family outings as she has to attend to clients. Clients bring in the dough so clients always come first. The work paid well but it was highly competitive and stressful. But these are all behind her now as she has found a more relaxed work environment and yet equally financially rewarding.

With her dairy carabao-based venture, she can attend to her family without the guilt of neglecting work. She finds immense joy and meaning in the moments when she works with her kids' side by side in the farm, tending to the animals, cleaning the pens, and gathering forage.

Farmer by chance

Annalyn's family bought a parcel of land in Rosario, La Union, in 2013. While they resided in La Trinidad, Benguet, the property served as their weekend get-away. It was planted with rice and corn for the family's consumption. They also raised free-range poultry, tried papaya farming, and vegetable production and now dairy carabaos.

Before they had their own milking carabaos, Annalyn's family used to buy fresh carabao's milk from their neighbours. She now delights in being able to provide her family's daily dose of milk from their own farm.

It was through her neighbour Jayson Albay who supplied her with carabaos milk that she came to know about the carabao-based enterprise development program of the DA-Philippine Carabao Center at Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DA-PCC at DMMSU). After a series of consultations and preparation training, she finally received her first dairy carabao in November 2018.

Within the first year, Annalyn received 12 dairy carabaos. At present, Annalyn has 17 dairy cows, 10 calves and few more carabaos expected to calve before the end of the year.

Career shift

All the 12 animals that Annalyn received were retrievals, or those that were returned by farmers who can no longer fulfill their obligations in the contract, their condition was poor which brought Annalyn to a challenging situation. She fostered the carabaos and cared for them until they were fully rehabilitated. She eventually got attached to the animals that she decided to keep them in her farm and pursue dairy farming as a livelihood. Although, she was unsure of the profitability of dairy farming, the sense of fulfillment and accomplishment derived when she was able to restore the poor animals to good health.

Through proper care and management and ensuring that their reproductive efficiencies are planned and monitored, Annalyn's carabaos soon produced offspring. By the third year, she was earning a decent income from her raw milk harvest.

From 2 to 3 liters in the first calving, the milk produce increased to 4 to 5 liters a day for some of the cows on their succeeding calving. With her steady milk harvest from her cows' succeeding calving, Annalyn realized the need to improve the market prospects not only for herself but for the other carabao farmers. Annalyn initiated discussions with other dairy farmers in her town. Although they had an organization, the marketing side of their value-chain was ailing due to lack of operating capital. Eventually, they organized themselves into a cooperative and registered as Rosario Dairy Farmers Cooperative. Members paid share capital subscriptions which provided the initial operating capital. The cooperative had also been working on strengthening their organization and complying with regulatory permits and license requirements. PCC at DMMSU has also been a constant go-to of the Coop who walked them through their developing stage.

Currently, the Coop's major income stream comes from the Milk Feeding Program of DepEd and DSWD as supplier of carabao's milk. In one school year alone, 2021 to 2022, they supplied PHP8million worth of milk to DepEd. It is also operating a Dairy Box outlet in Rosario, La Union, where the cooperative's dairy products are sold, directly benefiting dairy farmers and the community. Experiencing how the dairy business could sufficiently provide for her family, Annalyn intends to stay in the farm and continue to develop her dairy carabao-based livelihood. She is also now the manager of Rosario Dairy Farmers Cooperative.

"Before, my work involved enormous pressure to close transactions and produce sales. The competition was fierce. Now, I am more relaxed and have more time for my family," Annalyn said.

"What I appreciate most about my dairy farming venture is that we can do this with the whole family involved. Each one of us has a role to play in our little dairy business. Each activity that we do together genuinely makes me really happy."

Annalyn Tade
Carapreneur

“You come to a point when you look at things differently. For me, dairy farming and farm living gave me the opportunity to be more appreciative of things,” she added.

Annalyn said that being in the real estate business has provided her opportunities and good income plus a convenient workspace. But keeping up with the demands of the job became too much of a stress to bear. This is the complete opposite of her life on the farm where the air is fresh and the only demand and pressure that she has to answer to are that which she places on herself. Most importantly, she has time for her family and her other roles as a wife to Melvin, 46, and as a mother to Neal, 24, and Iverson, 15.

Bound by carabao’s milk

Initially, Melvin was hesitant about tending carabaos because at one time, the carabaos ran free and destroyed his young fruit-bearing trees. He was also worried that the pollens and dust from the grass and corn would trigger allergies of the boys.

“When I exhausted all my savings in my first year of dairy venture, Melvin

got worried all the more that my business plan would end up a flop. But when the carabaos started producing milk, Melvin became lukewarm with the idea until eventually, he supported it by financing the housing and buying some tools and equipment. On the second year, our sales from milk were able to cover our household expenses and I was able to pay myself less than minimum wages,” Annalyn happily narrated.

By the third year, income from her dairy activities was comparable to her wages on her previous work.

Annalyn said their family conversations would always include a topic about the dairy carabaos even when their children were away studying in La Trinidad. They would call and ask about the animals.

Carapreneurship is not for the faint-hearted

As she progressed in the dairy business, Annalyn reflected on some realizations about being a carapreneur.

“It’s not for the poorest of the poor. Without land to plant forage for the carabaos, you are bound to fail. It is not efficient to rely on free forage

that you can gather around the neighbourhood. The DA-PCC has a reliable program but it needs the farmer’s willingness to invest in time and resources in order to succeed,” Annalyn noted.

“It would take at least 18 months before you start earning. But when a carabao starts producing milk, you are assured of a daily cash for the next 10 months straight,” she added.

“It is a rare opportunity to find a lucrative business without sacrificing time for the family. In carapreneurship, we can still bond as a family while doing our farm chores and earning a good income. For me, the most rewarding part of farming is when we can accomplish things together as a family and that makes me genuinely happy and fulfilled,” Annalyn concluded. **B**



GOT QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS? CONTACT US



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