

Bubalus



Quarterly Newsletter of the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center

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FEATURES

Carapreneurship: A venture worth pursuing

By Rodolfo Jr. Valdez

Dominic Paclibar of M'lang, North Cotabato saw in his vision what it was like to be in a carabao-based dairy venture. He decided to pursue that

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DA-PCC celebrates 28 years, underscores headways under the New Economy

By Chamanei Elias

Transitioning to the new economy with a renewed resolve to implement the Carabao Development Program (CDP) is the DA-Philippine Carabao Center's (DA-PCC) fresh commitment this year as it celebrates its 28th anniversary.

Said commitment is guided by the key strategies set forth by the Department of Agriculture's OneDA masterplan, which aims to strengthen and harmonize development initiatives in the carabao industry value chain with emphasis on harnessing

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Editor's Word



As the DA-PCC celebrates its 28th Anniversary, we, as its employees, should be proud for taking an active part in the agency's effective and efficient implementation of its mandate and the Carabao Development Program (CDP) all these years. We should also be grateful that despite the challenges brought about by the recent natural calamities and the current pandemic, we have remained resilient and relevant as DA's formidable force in the field of livestock research and development.

The recent renewal of the agency's certification to the ISO integrated management system is a solid testimony to its adherence to and practice of internationally recognized standards for its various processes, products, and services. Behind this agency's proof of excellence are our very own hardworking and exceptional individuals who demonstrated the core values of the agency in their respective work assignments and, thus, recognized as DA-PCC outstanding employees for the past year.

The expansion of the DA-PCC's enterprise development program via the Carabao-based Business Improvement Network (CBIN) and the Coconut-Carabao Development Project (CCDP) along with its crucial role in the Department of Education's School-Based Milk Feeding Program are all indications of its competence and credibility in implementing impact projects that transcend geographical and departmental boundaries. These projects and engagements are ably implemented in many parts of the country through the agency's regional centers and partner-conduit cooperatives.

Likewise, as in the previous issues of Bubalus, we continue to pay homage to the CDP's exceptional "Juanas" and "Juans", i.e., the primary stakeholders who have successfully ventured in the challenging but promising field of carapreneurship. Their success is the ultimate measure of our own success as an agency.

We are happy to, once again, share inspiring stories along the above prelude, as you turn the pages of this newsletter.


Dr. Eric P. Palacpac

About the cover

Dominic Paclibar of M'lang, North Cotabato started his buffalo dairying venture when the DA-PCC at University of Southern Mindanao entrusted to him a number of buffaloes that served as start-up stocks in his D&L Dairy Farm. Dominic used to engage in rice milling business, but is now into dairying and selling of Napier grass as his main source of income.



(Photo by Rowena G. Bumanlag)

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DA-PCC HQ passes re-certification, transition audits

By Minda Diloy

The Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center National Headquarters and Gene Pool (DA-PCCNHGP) had once again proven its commitment to continual improvement, ecological responsibility and concern for the health and safety of its people by passing the external audits on the three management system standards (MSS).

The six-man day audit was conducted by three auditors, each having specialization on Quality Management System (QMS) – ISO 9001; Environmental Management System (EMS) –ISO 14001; and Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS) – ISO 45001 of the Worldwide Quality Assurance (WQA) Philippines on March 18 to 19 for QMS and March 23 and 24 for EMS and OHSMS, respectively.

The audits were for the 6th re-certification to ISO 9001; 2nd re-certification to ISO 14001 and transition to ISO 45001 from the former OHSAS 18001.

This year, the agency is on its 7th certification cycle on QMS and 3rd cycle for both EMS and OHSMS. Each certification cycle is equivalent to three years of sustained certificate validity,

meaning, the agency has never been issued with a Major Non Conformity in all of its annual audits.

The DA-PCCNHGP has been certified to ISO 9001 since 2003. Its commitment to create quality products and services expanded to the demonstration of ecological responsibility and prime concern for the health and safety of employees when the agency decided to integrate EMS and OHSMS, all certifiable to the International Standards. This made DA-PCCNHGP an IMS Certified agency in 2012. Since then, the agency sustained its focus on the improvement of its overall management system and validating the effectiveness of its performance through the annual external audits.

Keeping the validity of QMS certificate for 18 years and EMS and OHSMS for 6 years now is an outcome of the combined strong leadership; involvement of competent people, both process owners and internal auditors; and meaningful participation of interested parties.

The success of the latest audit came as a gift to DA-PCC as it celebrates its 28th anniversary this month.



DA-PCC successfully passed the audits on Quality, Environmental, and Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems conducted by the Worldwide Quality Assurance (WQA) Philippines on March 18 to 19 and March 23 to 24, respectively.

Complete buffalo dairy value chain established in North Cotabato

By Paulyn Grace Saturno

The DA-Philippine Carabao Center at University of Southern Mindanao (DA-PCC at USM) in partnership with the Sta. Catalina Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Sta. Catalina MPC) inaugurated several facilities that would represent a whole buffalo dairy value chain in one place in North Cotabato.

From production to output, the DA-PCC successfully completed the whole value chain for the Sta. Catalina MPC under the project "Carabao-based Business Improvement Network" funded through the office of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform, led by Senator Cynthia A. Villar.

Held last March 5, the inaugural activities include the blessing of the Co-op's Feed Mill, Dairy Farm, Dairy Processing; entrustment of 28 dairy buffaloes, one bull, and motorcycles; and groundbreaking ceremony for the Dairy Box Store.

Present in the event were DA-PCC's OIC-Executive Director Dr. Ronnie Domingo, DA-PCC at USM Center

Bataan carapreneurs to benefit from soon-to-rise dairy facility

By Ma. Cecilia Irang



“I want to recognize the collaborative efforts of the government agencies, local and provincial government units, and MADMC for the success of this event. Truly, success is sweeter and more rewarding when we all worked hard for it.”

Hon. Maria Angela Garcia
Dinalupihan Mayor

With an eye to increasing income of carapreneurs and providing nutritious milk products for Bataan residents, the Local Government Unit of Dinalupihan, together with the DA-PCC at Central Luzon State University (DA-PCC at CLSU), led the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Php1.3M dairy processing plant and outlet last February 26.

Said initiative is part of the project titled Carabao-based Business Improvement Network (CBIN), popularized as Accelerating Livelihood Assets Buildup (ALAB)-Karbawan of the DA-PCC, which was funded by the Office of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform Chairperson Senator Cynthia Villar.

Soon to rise in barangay San Ramon, Dinalupihan, Bataan, the facility will directly benefit the Makabagong Agrikultura ng Dinalupihan Marketing Cooperative (MADMC), one of the conduit cooperatives for the CBIN project. It will serve as a venue where the members can process and sell their milk products not only in Dinalupihan but also in neighboring towns.

It is also projected to benefit other households in the area as it will provide healthful dairy products and

sustainable livelihood for the town’s residents.

In a pre-recorded video message, Sen. Villar promotes dairy enterprise as another income-generating venture in response to the pressing need for additional source of income of farmers.

“I fervently hope that we will all be equipped with knowledge and technologies to help progress the local dairy industry. This facility is just one of the many more processing centers that we will gradually establish together with the government and DA-PCC,” Sen. Villar said.

DA-PCC Officer-in-Charge Executive Director Dr. Ronnie Domingo, in his message, imparted words of encouragement to participants saying they are still “blessed” amidst the current health crisis, as the government heeds the farmers’ plight hence continuously provides support to the agriculture sector.

DA-PCC at CLSU Center Director

Dr. Peregrino Duran introduced the team that makes up the CBIN project and gave an overview of the project.

He also shared that the center, through the CBIN, already entrusted 40 dairy buffaloes and awarded equipment for processing and production such as ice cream maker, chest freezers, upright chiller, stainless milk cans and milk pails, milking machine, forage choppers, hand tractor, and motorcycles to MADMC. A series of capability enhancement trainings for farmer-beneficiaries were also done.

Dinalupihan Mayor Maria Angela Garcia deemed the groundbreaking as a stepping stone to the town’s dream of becoming an agropolis model.

Also present during the ceremony were Department of Agrarian Reform-Bataan Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Engr. Emmanuel Aguinaldo, Provincial Veterinarian Dr. Alberto Venturina, and MADMC Chairperson Priscilla Domingo and members.

Initial implementation of milk feeding program shows promising outcome

By Gerald Ramos



Approximately 26% of the total number of beneficiaries were able to receive milk from the initial implementation of the milk feeding program.

The initial implementation of the milk feeding program, led by the Department of Education (DepEd) through the help of 30 assisted cooperatives of DA-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC), had supplied the milk requirements of 503,955 undernourished children in 2019, which is equivalent to 26.12% of the total number of beneficiaries nationwide.

This progressive outcome was the talking point during the visit of the members of DepEd Integrated Monitoring Team from Central Office headed by OIC Director IV of Bureau of Learners and Support Services (BLSS) Lope Santos III, and DepEd Region 3 Education Support Services Division Chief Samuel Sampang to the DA-PCC National Headquarters and Gene Pool in Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija last March 9.

DA-PCC’s top management headed by OIC Executive Director Dr. Ronnie Domingo, Deputy Executive Director for Production and Research Dr. Claro Mingala, Deputy Executive Director for Admin and Finance Dr. Caro Salces, Milk Feeding National Coordinator Mina Abella, and PCC Milk Feeding Team Head Wilma Del Rosario, welcomed the visitors.

Said visit was done to share the strategies behind the success of the initial implementation of Milk Feeding Program in support of RA No. 11037 or the “Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act” and assure its continuous implementation in 2021.

It also served as a venue to talk about the benefits and opportunities brought about by the milk feeding program to dairy value chain players and Filipino children.

Dr. Domingo expressed his gratitude to the DepEd for trusting DA-PCC and its assisted cooperatives to supply the milk requirements needed for the feeding.

In response, BLSS OIC-Dir. Santos III recognized and commended the effort of DA-PCC to ensure the quality and availability of milk supply for the program.

“I would like to thank not just the management but also the milk producers, processors and supplier cooperatives for their unparalleled commitment for the success of the program,” he added.

Dr. Corazon Dumlao, chief of School Health Division, put forward for consideration the inclusion of Milkybun, a nutrient-rich bread, in

the School-Based Feeding Program as an alternative food for children, as she tasted and learned that this bread also has carabao’s milk in its formulation.

Dr. Libertado Cruz, Representative of Licaong Agricultural Cooperative (LAC), thanked the DepEd for the implementation of the Milk Feeding program, which gave hope and sustainable livelihood to the farmers. He also shared several key points behind the success of Milk Feeding in Thailand, how it started, and how it grew, which can be emulated by the Philippines.

For the implementation of DepEd 2020 feeding program fund, 32.29% of the total number of beneficiaries, which is equivalent to 1,012,840 individuals will receive milk.

Also present in the activity were representatives from seven dairy cooperatives from Nueva Ecija, which include LAC, Nueva Ecija Federation of Dairy Carabao Cooperatives, Eastern Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Pulong Buli Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Simula ng Panibagong Bukas Multi-Purpose Cooperative, and Brotherskeeper Multi-Purpose Cooperative.

Milk feeding program makes headway in Negros Island

By Eva Rom



Suppliers for the program deliver milk products to the designated drop-off points.

A total of 19,895 children in the cities of La Carlota, Bago, Bacolod, Bais, and Tanjay benefited from the milk feeding program last year led by the Department of Education (DepEd) in Negros Island in tie-up with the DA-PCC at La Carlota Stock Farm (DA-PCC at LCSF).

The DepEd through its Schools Division Offices (SDO) and DA-PCC at LCSF signed an operating memorandum of agreement (OMOA) to embark on and implement a Milk Feeding Program pursuant to Republic Act No. 11037 also known as the “Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act”.

The program, which started in November 2020 in Negros Island, is not only beneficial to undernourished children but also to dairy value chain players especially to assisted dairy co-ops of DA-PCC at LCSF, as it has created a higher demand for locally produced milk, hence, provided them sustainable livelihood.

Meanwhile, the Lamac Multi-Purpose Cooperative and San Julio Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Cooperative served as suppliers of milk for the program.

Due to the health protocols

implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the five cities had designated drop-off points for the delivery, inspection, and acceptance of milk products during the feeding program.

The DA-PCC at LCSF, headed by Center Director Ariel Abaquita, and SDOs continuously implement milk feeding activities this year covering various areas in Negros Island. The former has also started coordinating with the Department of Social Welfare and Development for the same purpose.

Some 18k pupils in Bukidnon soon to benefit from milk feeding

By Jeson Candole

A total of 18,507 undernourished public day care and kindergarten pupils are set to benefit from a 21-day milk feeding project in select municipalities in Bukidnon. The project will commence in March.

Said initiative will be made possible with the inking of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center at Central Mindanao University (DA-PCC at CMU), Department of Education-Division of Bukidnon, and the Muleta Side Buffalo

Association (MUSBUDA) to implement the School-based Milk Feeding Program (SBFP) that was initially set in 2020 but was deferred due to the pandemic.

Target beneficiaries in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will each receive 200 ml toned carabao's milk daily for at least 20 feeding days. This program has a total budget of Php7,135,558.92 covering 25 schools in the municipalities of Manolo Fortich,

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Strengthening carabao-based enterprise thru CCDP

By Emy Goritte Gorra

Eighteen farmers attended the site validation and meeting for the Coconut-Carabao Development Project (CCDP) last February 17 at Brgy. Canilag, Biliran, Biliran.

Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center at Visayas State University (DA-PCC at VSU) Center Director Francisco Gabunada, Jr. led the activity together with Biliran Municipal Agriculturist Limuel Antonio, DA-Philippine Coconut Authority (DA-PCA) Community

Development Officer Joanne Corpin and Project Development Officer Chrestian Bacalla, who discussed the potentials of carabao development program and objectives of CCDP with the prospective farmer-beneficiaries on the site.

“Dako na mabubulig kini ha amon kung mahitabo ang maong proyekto kay dugang kini na panginabuhian namo sa adlaw-adlaw. (The project will be a great help for us farmers because it gives us additional livelihood),” according to Thelma Nierras, one of the farmer-beneficiaries.

Before the said site validation and meeting, Dir. Gabunada paid a courtesy call to Biliran Mayor Hon. Grace J. Casil and introduced the plans for the project.

A total of 1,800 pots of guinea grass and sweet napier planting materials were given to the beneficiaries as part of the project's initial steps.

The CCDP is made possible through

the support of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform, and will be implemented by the DA-PCC and DA-PCA. It aims to contribute to the uplifting of the economic situation of coconut farmers by way of establishing carabao-based enterprises in the country complemented by increased coconut farm productivity.

During the implementation of CCDP, the DA-PCA will select and validate the project sites and beneficiaries and endorse it to the DA-PCC. The latter will then facilitate orientations, social preparation and capability-building activities of beneficiaries on topics such as Carabao Production, Processing and Marketing.

Other CCDP pilot sites for Eastern Visayas are Macalpi, Carigara, Leyte; Malapoc Sur, Maasin City, Southern Leyte; San Antonio, Basey, Samar; and Kalingnan, Catubig, Northern Samar.

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Complete buffalo dairy...

Director Benjamin John Basilio, DA-RFO XII Regional Executive Director Arlan Mangelen who also represented DA Secretary Dr. William Dar, DA Region XII Task Force Gatas, Volunteer Chairman Ret. Col. Celestino Desamito, Board Member Dr. Kristal Solis, Mr. Arthur Go from the office of Senator Cynthia Villar, Chairman of Sta. Catalina MPC Joel Quiñon, and other distinguished guests and members of the cooperative.

This program is in support of the directives of Secretary Dar to help the farmers achieve the “Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita”.



DA-PCC DA-PCC OIC Executive Director Dr. Ronnie Domingo (2nd from right) and officials of Sta. Catalina MPC lead the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the co-op's dairy farm.

DA-PCC, DA-PCA conduct farmers' training and turn-over of carabaos and farm tools in Aklan

By Mary Antonette Andarza

The Department of Agriculture–Philippine Carabao Center at West Visayas State University (DA-PCC at WVSU), in partnership with DA-Philippine Coconut Authority (DA-PCA) Region VI, conducted farmers' orientation and turned over 20 carabaos and farm tools and supplies to its respective beneficiaries last February 19.

The said event was one of the directives being advocated by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform anchored on cara-dairy and coco-based farming.

The turn-over ceremonies were simultaneously held at Brgy. Feliciano, Balete, Aklan and Brgy. Calimbajan, Makato, Aklan,



DA-PCC WVSU Center Director Arn Granada, DA-PCA Region VI Regional Manager III Jeffrey Delos Reyes, Aklan Vice Governor Hon. Reynaldo Quimpo, and Balete Municipal Mayor Hon. Dexter Calizo lead the turn-over ceremony.

alongside farmers' orientation on the Coconut–Carabao Development Project (CCDP).

In his opening message, DA-PCC at WVSU Dir. Arn Granada acknowledged the efforts of the local government of Aklan and DA-PCA Region VI for initiating the said project.

On the same day, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the implementation of the Coconut Carabao Development Project (CCDP) in the Second Congressional District of Aklan was signed by Cong. Teodorico Haresco Jr., partner LGU-Makato, Aklan, and Calimbajan Mainuswagon Panimaey Consumers Cooperative (CMPCC) at the office of Cong.

Haresco, Tangalan, Aklan.

The CCDP aims to provide additional income to coconut farmers by providing sustainable livelihoods and business opportunities through carabao-based enterprises, and to ensure the availability of locally produced milk in support of RA 11037, otherwise known as “Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Program” currently being implemented by Department of Education (DepEd) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The said program is centered on the theme, “Developing the Dairy Buffalo Value-Chain Under Coconut Farming System”.

DA-PCC at WVSU promotes corn silage as feed resource for ruminants

By Mary Antonette Andarza

The Department of Agriculture–Philippine Carabao Center at West Visayas State University (DA-PCC at WVSU) demonstrated the use and benefits of corn silage making to farmers at the Sipag Villar Training Center (SVTC), Brgy. San Jose, San Miguel, Iloilo last February 9.

Farmer cooperatives from Leon, Iloilo (Leon ConFed Farmers' Dairy Association), Hamtic,

Antique (Hamtic Multi-Purpose Cooperative), Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo (Barotac Nuevo Multi-Purpose Cooperative), and Province of Guimaras participated in the event titled “Demonstration of Corn Silage as Feed Resource for Carabao-Kanding-Baka”.

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Carapreneurship: A venture worth pursuing

trail in 2019 and is now treading along a stream of benefits and opportunities abounding in carapreneurship.

Dominic's and wife Ma. Elisa's dream for their own family was like any other Filipino parents. The couple strived to work doubly and even overseas for a sustainable livelihood to secure their future.

By a stroke of fate, while pursuing their family dream, Dominic learned of the Carabao Development Program (CDP) being implemented by the DA-Philippine Carabao Center at University of Southern Mindanao (DA-PCC at USM) and was immediately convinced that he should try his luck in joining the program.

The course of his pursuit of a successful family life changed since then.

“I am grateful that I came to know the channel of blessings that will bring me my very own package of blessings,” Dominic reflected on his first meeting with DA-PCC at USM Center Director Benjamin John C. Basilio when the latter was initially encouraging Dominic to engage in carapreneurship.

In May 2019, Dominic enthusiastically obliged to the invitation and participated in the “Farmer Livestock School on Dairy Buffalo Production (FLS-DBP)”. The FLS-DBP is a learning modality conducted by DA-PCC for farmers to have technology options and to capacitate them to maximize the benefits that can be derived from carabao-based enterprises.

After graduation from the 34-week training and deliberate evaluation of his qualifications, Dominic was identified as a recipient of a Dairy Buffalo Module from the DA-PCC at USM on the same year. In this module, 25 head of dairy buffaloes were turned over to Dominic for his initial stock.

In the first two years, while Dominic was waiting for his buffaloes to produce milk, he engaged in Napier grass production.

“Way before the dairy animals arrived, I developed my 11-hectare land for planting to Napier grass as an initiative to store feedstuff for the herd. I didn't know that this could very well be an additional source of income for me,” Dominic said.

He sells 15 tons of Napier every month to dairy buffalo raisers like himself, giving him an extra income of Php7,500.

As a farmer whose mindset is cut out for business, Dominic explores spin-off ventures out of his dairy buffalo-based enterprise. He does so by actively participating in related activities, including trainings and other learning events, conducted by DA-PCC at USM. Dominic believes that continuous learning can bring him more success in his newfound venture.

In 2020, Dominic's farm started to flow with milk. While he was earnestly waiting for this time, he was initially anxious on where to bring his produce and who are willing to take them.

“People are aware of the many benefits of drinking carabao's milk

“Patience has to be the virtue behind any struggle. It is in patience that hardships are seen rewarded in the end. If we don't give up on hardships, we come out stronger and have a taste of sweet success.”

Dominic Paclibar
Carapreneur

but it's demand in the market is still very low,” he griped.

This was another instance when DA-PCC at USM stepped in to help Dominic overcome a challenge that most farmers in the dairy business have also encountered.

“I appreciate DA-PCC at USM's readiness to assist whenever farmers like me are in challenging situations such as in marketing our milk and dairy products. The extra mile that they do is consistently motivating us to keep going and doing well,” Dominic uttered.

Dominic's dairy farm, the D&L Dairy Farm, is now accredited by the Department of Trade and Industry and is undergoing FDA certification.

Today, the dairy farm produces an average of 1,050 liters of milk monthly that he processes to dairy products including fresh milk and flavored milk. These products are now available to customers in Davao City, Digos City, Matanao, South Cotabato and in the Province of Cotabato.

Dominic is also one of the suppliers for the SBFP-Milk Feeding of DepEd Cotabato and South Cotabato Divisions.

While devotedly pursuing his own track in carapreneurship, Dominic knows that he will still be presented with challenges but is now ready to confront them head on. He recognizes that there will be highs and lows in the business but to experience the peak of his success means that he has to continue treading on.



Scientific Career System confers Scientist I rank to DA-PCC's top geneticist

By Ma. Cecilia Irang

Dr. Ester Flores, DA-PCC's National Genetic Improvement Program (GIP) coordinator, has been conferred the rank of Scientist I under the Scientific Career System (SCS) by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) effective December 3, 2020.

The significant contributions and professional expertise of Dr. Flores in research and development particularly in animal breeding and genomics made her qualified and eligible to the rank of Scientist I, granted by the Scientific Career Council (SCC), which is the governing body of the SCS.

Among the noteworthy accomplishments of Dr. Flores, together with her research team, include the establishment and implementation of separate structured breeding program for

riverine and swamp buffaloes; development of a suitable genetic evaluation model for estimation of genetic parameters and estimated breeding values (EBVs); and marker assisted selection, which all paved the way to DA-PCC becoming the only livestock agency in the DA that has a well-organized and -structured breeding program demonstrated with locally produced riverine buffalo and swamp buffalo bulls with EBVs.

These initiatives, coupled with genomic selection using high density single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) genotyping, provide the latest generation of performance and progeny tested Philippine dairy buffalo bulls with pedigree-based and genomic breeding values.

Dr. Flores' team has also extended their research to cattle and pigs with the development of genetic testing

protocol for genes associated with fertility, growth rate, meat yield and quality in commercial swine and cattle breeds.

Apart from her research and development work, Dr. Flores also mentors young researchers to broaden their knowledge on research and progress in the scientific path. She encourages them, particularly those who are under her headship at the Animal Breeding and Genomics Section, to take on meaningful research projects.

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).

From page 1

DA-PCC celebrates 28 years...



DA-PCC officials cap off the virtual celebration with a cake-cutting ceremony.

strategic partnerships with the local government, academic community, and the private sector.

Ultimately, the plan is to overcome the challenges of the pandemic and help uplift the living conditions of the rural farming communities.

A virtual program was conducted on March 29 through Facebook live streaming. It was joined by DA-PCC regional centers, partners, and carapreneurs across the DA-PCC network.

Dr. Ronnie D. Domingo, OIC Executive Director of DA-PCC, reported on the efforts of the agency prior to and during the pandemic such as the livestock rescue operations during the volcanic eruption in Taal, the rolling out of Kadiwa Buffalo Milk on Wheels, and the introduction of new technologies that were developed to improve carapreneurs' management and production systems.

"Matagumpay na naisakatuparan ang mga programa ng PCC nang dahil sa patuloy na paglalaan ng pondo ng gobyerno para sa pananaliksik. Patuloy kaming nakikipagtulungan sa mga lokal at international organizations upang mas lalo pang umasenso ang ating industriya ng

pagkakalabaw," said Dr. Domingo as he enumerated the program priorities of the agency.

The program priorities include a Dairy Roadmap from 2020 to 2025 (in partnership with the National Dairy Authority), PL480 project with Php512M budget, and partnership with private stakeholders, Province-wide Carabao-based Business Improvement Network (CBIN) project, Coconut-Carabao Development Project, and the School-based Milk Feeding Program led by Department of Education (DepEd) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). These, he said, are efforts beyond the regular activities under the three-pronged CDP that includes Genetic Improvement Program, Carabao-based Enterprise Development Program, and Research for Development.

Governor Arthur Yap of the Province of Bohol served as the keynote speaker during the program. He challenged the agency to seize the opportunity in strengthening and helping local farmers and fisher folks in sustaining food security at this time of pandemic through promoting and preserving the Philippine carabao not only as an

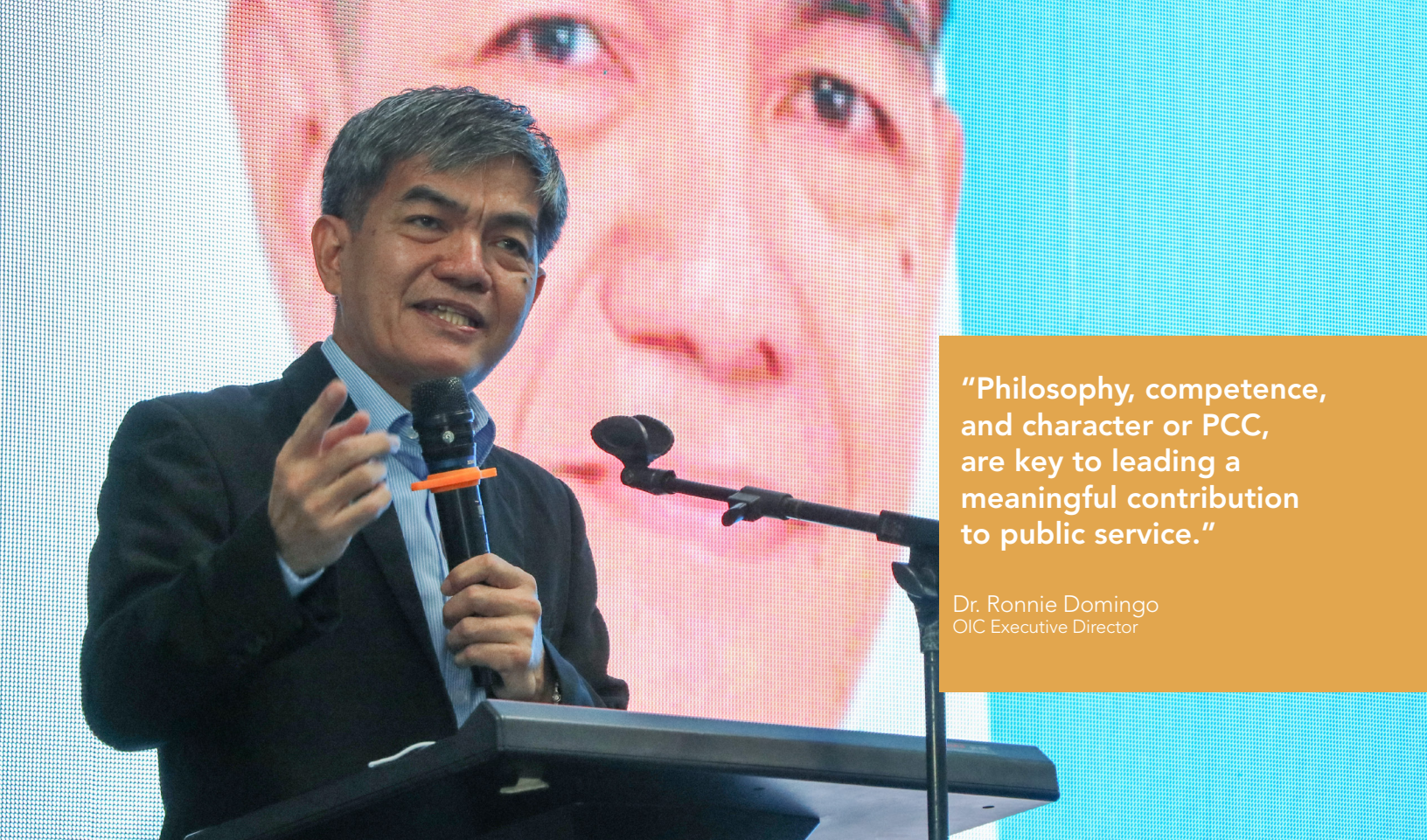
animal for work in the traditional Philippine farming scene but also for high-profit ventures such as production of milk and meat and other products.

Gov. Yap urged the agency to make sure that different food commodities are accessible at affordable prices for the public.

"This is the only way for our economy to bounce back—that food is sufficient and accessible to all and properly priced. Remember that in this period of COVID-19 and the ASF, there is going to be a renewed pressure on you to perform and to make sure that the DA-PCC and the Philippine carabao goes to the forefront of the discussion and that it is part of the solution to combat this crisis," he emphasized.

He committed that the province of Bohol will always be a willing partner to DA-PCC in nation building through food security.

"Whatever happens to this country, we will remain to be a rural country and we should be proud of that. We should continue protecting



“Philosophy, competence, and character or PCC, are key to leading a meaningful contribution to public service.”

Dr. Ronnie Domingo
OIC Executive Director

DA-PCC welcomes new OIC Executive Director

By Fritz Jazer Lumawag

Dr. Ronnie Domingo, formerly the Director of the Department of Agriculture’s Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI), is the newly designated Officer-in-Charge Executive Director of the DA-Philippine Carabao Center.

Dr. Domingo was formally introduced to the DA-PCC officials and employees in a general assembly following standard safety and health protocols on February 1.

Newly designated Deputy Executive Director for Administration and Finance Dr. Caro Salces introduced the various divisions that make up the organic structure of DA-PCC and the core values that the PCCeans live by.

Former OIC Executive Director and is now the newly designated OIC-Deputy Executive Director for Production and Research Dr. Claro Mingala gave a fond introduction of Dr. Domingo as the two have previously worked together at the DA-BAI as Director and Assistant Director, respectively.

In his message, Dr. Domingo shared some of his learnings as a public servant and having previously served in national positions.

Philosophy, competence, and character or PCC, he said, are key to leading a meaningful contribution to public service. Success, he added, should be about getting better every day.

He concluded his message to the PCCeans by saying that even when uncertainties have become the norm in government service, all things work together for the good of those who love God and abide by His purpose.

Dr. Domingo was a former professor at the Central Luzon State University and University of the Philippines at Los Baños. Outside his professional career, he is an anointed pastor and esteemed motivational speaker.

PCC bags 1st place among DA attached agencies in cash utilization

By Jeffrey Laurence Antolin

The DA-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) garnered the highest place among the nine attached agencies of the Department of Agriculture in terms of cash utilization under the 2020 General Appropriations Act, spending 99.90% of the Php437,609,880.00 Notice of Cash Allocation (NCA) for fiscal year 2020,

which was recognized during the 2020 Year-End Financial Evaluation and Assessment of the Department of Agriculture (DA) last February 22-24 held via webconferencing.

Ranking second was the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) and following it was the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) for the third place.

Ms. Charie Sarah D. Saquing, accounting division chief of the DA-Central Office, announced the results and explained the ranking system. There is a maximum of 1,200 points which may be earned by an agency, translating to 100 points per month, which means that the monthly NCA was fully utilized, in which PCC earned over 1,000 points.

Last year, DA grouped all the

31 operating units and ranked them accordingly in which PCC was placed third. Recognizing the intricacies of each form of government instrumentality, this time, DA attached agencies belonged to a separate category, as with DA bureaus and attached corporations, and DA regional offices, recognizing the top three in each group, with a total of nine awardees.

DA Undersecretary for Administration and Finance Roldan G. Gorgonio graced the event with a short message by acknowledging the efforts of the DA finance group in ensuring timely delivery of public service especially in this time of national crisis. He also stressed the importance of keeping up with the changing times by embracing information technology and automating the financial reporting system.

From page 8

DA-PCC at WVSU promotes...

Dr. Myrtel Alcazar, Genetic Improvement Program Coordinator of DA-PCC at WVSU, gave a review on corn silage making, highlighting its benefits and advantages when used as a feed source for ruminants, especially carabao.

Corn silage is a good high-energy source for dairy cows. It is great for dairy farm systems preventing under- or overgrazing while improving animal health and increasing milk production.

Mr. Perlito Echeche, chairman of LECOFADA, together with his selected members demonstrated the actual preparation of silage.

DA-PCC at WVSU Director Arn Granada extended his appreciation to SVTC for the opportunity to hold the training in its training

center recognizing the challenge of conducting one in this time where mobility and gathering are limited.

Senator Cynthia Villar, in a pre-recorded video message, commended DA-PCC at WVSU for the initiative saying this is a positive step toward advancing sustainable local milk production that will benefit Filipino children and increase the income of dairy farmers.

“Hiling ko sa Philippine Carabao Center na magsagawa pa kayo ng mga ganitong pagsasanay sa iba’t ibang bahagi ng bansa para suportahan natin ang ating mga magsasaka sa pagpapabuti ng kanilang katayuan,” Senator Villar said in her message.

Michael Mayoga, staff under SVTC,

welcomed the training participants in a brief tour to the center which showcased projects such as the masonry, Villar Farm School, and a plastic factory which processes plastic wastes into chairs.

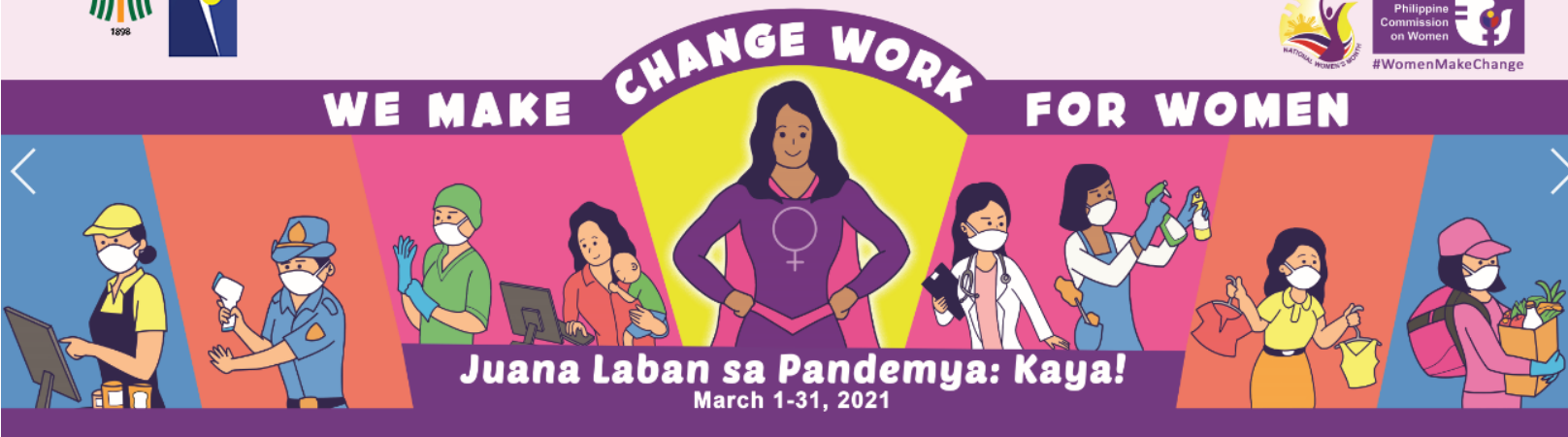
In her closing remarks, Janice Cuaresma, DA-PCC at WVSU Carabao-Based Enterprise Development coordinator, thanked all the facilitators of the training and looked forward to conducting more related activities in the future.

Also present in the event were Isabelo Luscares, chairman of the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries Iloilo; and Chesa Elenterio, representative from the office of Assistant Secretary to the Visayas.



The Philippine Carabao Center joins the 2021 National Women's Month Celebration

In support of:



DA-PCC joins 2021 women's month celebration

By Ma. Cecilia Irang

The Department of Agriculture–Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) joined the nation in celebrating this year's Women's Month with the theme “We Make Change Work for Women: Juana Laban sa Pandemya: Kaya!”.

In a kick-off program held on March 1, Deputy Executive Director for Production and Research Dr. Claro Mingala and Research and Development Division Officer-In-Charge Dr. Eufrocina Atabay delivered their respective messages emphasizing the all-encompassing role of women in the society as innovators and changemakers.

Sonia Pol, gender and development (GAD) focal person, gave an overview

of this year's campaign, which highlights women's participation in battling the pandemic and discusses gender issues aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

She also presented the agency's lineup of activities, which aim to inform and engage women as stakeholders of government programs and services; create and facilitate platforms to discuss good practices, gaps, challenges, and commitments in pursuing GAD; and inspire and empower women and girls to be agents of change.

During this year's month long celebration, the DA-PCC's Gender and Development Focal Point System (GFPS) will organize and spearhead

activities such as Virtual Forum and Sharing of Experiences and Innovations by the #OneDArfulJuana and #OneDArfulJuan and Webinars on Gender Sensitivity Orientation, Gender Fair Communication and Language, and GAD legal mandates to be participated in by DA-PCC's GFPS members across its network and interested employees.

Employees also took part in #PurpleMondays by wearing purple dresses and/or accessories to show their support in the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE).

Purple is globally recognized as the color of women that symbolizes justice and dignity.

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From page 11

DA-PCC celebrates 28 years...

our farmers and fisherfolks and that can only happen with science, technology, and value-adding,” ended Gov. Yap.

In a pre-recorded message, Senator Cynthia Villar, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform, reminded the agency to work for the optimum development of the country's dairy sector which will redound to poverty alleviation, increased farmer's income, and improved nutrition of children.

From page 6

Some 18k pupils...

Lantapan, Sumilao, Cabanglasan, Impasug-ong, Kisolon, Don Carlos, Damulog, and Kadingilan.

DA-PCC at CMU Director Dr. Lowell Paraguas and Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Randolph Tortola, and School Division Nurse Juniel Rey Abadiano, and MUSBUDA Chairperson Carlo Magno Abellanosa led the MOA signing at the Dairy Box Bukidnon, Don Carlos, Bukidnon last February 13.

Former DA-PCC Executive Directors and CDP pillars Dr. Libertado Cruz and Dr. Arnel Del Barrio also encouraged DA-PCC to remain resilient against all circumstances amid and beyond the pandemic and continue to be a catalyst that can bring about change and clear-cut solutions to benefit thousands more of farming families. Both agreed that these efforts should be backed up by sound science and bolstered with partnerships.

Director Paraguas said this agreement will directly support Republic Act 11037 or the Masustansyang Pagkain sa Batang Pilipino Act, which aims to address undernourishment among public day care, kindergarten and elementary pupils nationwide.

He added this undertaking will not only help undernourished children but it will also give an opportunity for dairy cooperatives and associations to have a sustainable livelihood.

Meanwhile, Abellanosa expressed his gratitude on behalf of MUSBUDA saying that it values the support that

The five new learning videos in the Knowledge Brokerage, Guidance, and Advisory Network (KBGAN) learning series by the Knowledge Management Division (KMD), headed by Dr. Eric Palacpac were also previewed virtually. The KBGAN videos feature technologies and best practices on carabao management and production.

The presentation of buffalo meat products, employee recognition and appreciation, virtual recognition of #OneDArfulJuan and #OneDArfulJuana and anniversary greetings from PCCEans and partners concluded the program.

their association has been getting from DA-PCC and for staying true to its mandate of helping carapreneurs.

He said the Agency has not only helped smallhold farmers like them but have also significantly ushered enhanced nutrition in their communities because of its unwavering service to promote milk drinking in Bukidnon.

The activity was also participated in by Dr. Elena S. Paraguas, DA-PCC at CMU CBED program coordinator, and Nida Abellanosa, MUSBUDA secretary.

'Juan' advice to those who 'Juana' succeed in the dairy business: Perseverance + teamwork should do the trick

By Mary Antonette Andarza



"Dedication and patience are key to starting a dairy business. Carabao production is not 'easy money'. We worked hard to get to where we are now."

Dionisio Capillo
Carapreneur

"Waay guid ko nakapaminsar nga untatan ang pagsagod sang karabaw bisan ano kabudlay kag kalawig sang hulaton mo antis ikaw makaginansiya. Du karon nga may walo dun kami ka karabaw kag nabatyagan na namon ang masulhay nga pangabuhì. Kung akon madumduman, mayad lang nga nagpadayon kami bisan budlay lab-uton ang amon mga handom [I never had thoughts about giving up on taking care of our carabaos despite all the difficulties and the long wait until we earn an income. Now that we have eight carabaos in our care, we are starting to reap the fruits of our labor. Looking back, I am glad we didn't give up when everything was hard and our dream seemed unreachable]," Dionisio Capillo averred.

Interviews are not new for Dionisio and Wilma Capillo. This humble couple has played a model role to fellow farmers because of their undeniable commitment in making their dairy carabao venture an evident success. Their secret is no secret: teamwork.

Outside their dairy enterprise, Dionisio works as a bank collector. But before his official work hour even begins in the day, his daily grind starts in the farm at dawn. His routine includes feeding, bathing, and milking the carabaos with his son Joel, 26.

What was most challenging at first to the couple was when they had to cut and carry grasses to feed the carabaos. But with the help of DA-PCC at West Visayas State University's (DA-PCC at WVSU) training on feeds and feeding management, the Capillos have acquired skills on silage production

and growing their own feed resource.

As they progressed in the venture, both Dionisio and Wilma agree that taking care of the carabaos should not be burdensome given the right technologies and training.

The joy that the couple feel about this venture is also because of the fact that each has their respective roles in the business. While Dionisio takes care of the production aspect, Wilma takes on the crucial responsibility of diligent data recording and monitoring. The daily status on milk production and animal health are monitored. Treatments that are administered to the animals such as A.I., pregnancy diagnosis, uterine flushing, and California Mastitis Test are also consistently kept in the records.

She also tracks the calving date, the

Once hard-luck in love, OFW finds good luck in newfound happiness

By Leinefe Libres-Aton



An overseas worker for nine years, Elisa Florenosos, 46, of Poblacion, San Miguel, Bohol finds her true love in dairying.

Elisa's challenging journey as a woman in love was ill-fated as she experienced not only one but three failed relationships. One of which brought her to Korea only to be left alone all feeling betrayed.

While trying to move on, she brought herself to a tough grind to survive in a foreign land. Working from one company to another was not just for her own survival but to be able to send money to her family back home in the Philippines. To her, tending to her family's needs was her priority while mending her broken heart only came second. She even took the extra hard work to invest for her family to have a livestock and rice production business and a good amount for lending.

In 2009, she had to come home to attend to her mother's funeral. While

still grieving for the loss of her mother, Elisa went through a long series of unfortunate events.

Then in 2012, Elisa didn't know that her life was about to go a fateful turnaround. A dairy technician convinced her to attend a seminar on the national carabao development program. In high hopes that this could be the enterprise that will bring her luck, Elisa gave it a try and immediately, she got interested about the topic.

Her journey in the dairy business started with one native carabao, owned by her father, that was initially being taken care of by her brother. She recalled that her first milking session gave her half a liter a day translated to a monthly sales of Php1,500. She shares this income with her brother for tending the animal. In their second month of milking, their income increased to Php2,500. This sale steadily increased in the succeeding months up to an

"A person who strives hard will succeed. Look at me, I am a woman but I can succeed."

Elisa Florenosos
Carapreneur

earning of Php5,000 every month.

She was already getting enthusiastic about this newfound venture but it seemed the series of life's challenges is far from ending. Her brother got hospitalized for acute ulcer. Bills needed to be settled so she had to sell their milking carabao. However, her sacrifice to save her brother's life has gone futile as he still died.

‘Juan’ advice to those who ‘Juana’ succeed in the dairy business: Perseverance + teamwork should do the trick

start of milking, and the body condition of the milking cows.

“I ensure that our milking area is clean before we start milking. The volume of milk that we produce daily is recorded for us to know how much milk we are producing each day, how much we will earn, and when our milking cows are expected to dry off,” Wilma explained in Hiligaynon.

With eight carabaos, Wilma shared they developed a knack for identifying which one is which among the carabos in their herd.

“We assign unique names to each of our carabaos for us to easily identify them. One is named ‘Valentina’ because she was born on Valentine’s day and another is named after our daughter Joy because every earning from that carabao are for Joy’s school expenses,” she added.

The Capillos engaged in carapreneurship in 2010. The couple shared they went through highs and lows in the business but they see it as their saving grace when it comes to financing their children’s education.

“Our dairy business has helped us finance our children’s education. We are proud to say that we were able to send them to school without incurring any debts. The carabaos were enough to sustain us. That’s what I tell my children--that they should not be ashamed of our source of livelihood. Wherever you are now, our carabaos have a significant part in your success,” Wilma shared.

Wilma said they were, in fact, able to finance the renovation of their house which they later on dubbed as “Katas ng Gatas ng Kalabaw.”

With the help of their son, Jun Kwollen, who currently works as a seafarer, the renovation of their house and improvement of their farm slowly became a dream come true. When asked about their future plans, Dionisio plans to expand their dairy business given an ideal area.

His advice to those who plan to start a dairy business such as theirs: “Dedication and patience are key to starting a dairy business. Carabao production is not ‘easy money’. We worked hard to get to where we are now.”

Once hard-luck in love, OFW finds good luck in newfound happiness

Upon learning of Elisa’s story and dedication to improve her livelihood despite tending just one carabao, the DA-PCC at Ubay Stock Farm (DA-PCC at USF) awarded her with one Murrah buffalo in 2013. She also tends animals in her neighborhood under a “paiwi” scheme for additional income. She even went as far as replacing her cattle with a carabao to add to the number of her milking carabaos.

To date, Elisa has two milking carabaos, which give her an average income of P8,0000 per month, and three calves. With this money, she is able to sustain her family’s daily needs, and finance for her house repair and home improvement

Elisa’s testimony of perseverance lends meaning to her life’s purpose as she positively influences her community. She is often asked to share her story in a crowd of farmers during gatherings. She was at first hesitant because of her speech impairment but she knew that her life’s story could bless others and encourage them to charge on even when painfully challenged.

With her talks, she was, in fact, able to inspire five more farmers in their town to engage in dairying.

As a woman, Elisa believes that her weakness is also her strength and that being a male or a female has nothing to do with success.

Elisa is now happily settled with dairying. Together with her current partner, they aim to increase their milking animals to at least five, and improve their animal shed and milking parlor with the money that they are earning from the business.

As the DA-PCC at USF’s recognized #OneDarfulJuana for 2020 for her resilience despite everything that she’s been through, Elisa proves that a pure heart can never be truly shattered. It will only continue to grow even stronger until it has found to beat again for its ultimate purpose.

2020 OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES



OUTSTANDING CENTER DIRECTOR



ARN D. GRANADA
Agricultural Center Chief IV
DA-PCC at West Visayas State University

Dir. Granada is recognized for his creativity and leadership that significantly resulted in effective Carabao Development Program implementation particularly in West Visayas. For his capacity on resource generation, profits and cost effectiveness, technical efficiency, expanding linkages and organizational development. His leadership is meaningfully seen at the community level where stream of benefits from the CDP implementation including among other tangible outputs such as calves born out of AI services and bull dispersal that provided additional income from milk and animal sales, improved nutrition and generated jobs among farmer-clients, family and cooperatives. born out of AI services and bull dispersal that provided additional income from milk and animal sales, improved nutrition and generated jobs among farmer-clients, family and cooperatives.

OUTSTANDING SUPERVISOR



DR. ROVINA R. PIÑERA
Training Specialist III
DA-PCC at Cagayan State University

Dr. Piñera is recognized for her managerial effectiveness reflected on her capacity to institutionalize systems and processes that significantly contributed to the provision of support in resource generation, profits and cost effectiveness, and technical efficiency in overseeing DA-PCC at CSU’s institutional herd, expanding linkages in Region 2 and organizational development.

OUTSTANDING DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS



NASROLA S. IBRAHIM
Science Research Assistant
DA-PCC at Southern Mindanao

Mr. Ibrahim is recognized for his substantial contributions in the planning and implementation of the Carabao Development Program in Regions 11 and 12, Maguindanao, and Lanao Del Sur. He strategically helped cooperative development in the center’s impact areas which improved farmers’ income and nutritional status.



FE EMELDA C. ACADEMIA
Senior Science Research Specialist
DA-PCC at Mindanao Livestock Production Center

Ms. Academia is recognized for her multiplier effect in positively influencing groups of CBED participants supportive of the Carabao Development Program in Zamboanga Peninsula. She strategically helped cooperative development in the center’s impact areas which improved farmers’ income and nutritional status. development in the center’s impact areas which improved farmers’ income and nutritional status.

OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER



DR. EMERSON P. TAPDASAN
Senior Science Research Specialist
DA-PCC at Ubay Stock Farm

Dr. Tapdasan is recognized for his series of epidemiological studies on mastitis, hemoplasmosis and ectoparasite biodiversity, and trypanosomiasis (surra) in water buffalo in the province of Bohol. He has also demonstrated his excellence in presenting and disseminating the results of his researches, as evidenced by being awarded recently the Best Paper in Agriculture and Fisheries Cluster during the 2020 Central Visayas Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources R&D Consortium (CVAARDEC) Symposium.

OUTSTANDING SUPPORT STAFF



ANGELICA B. TOLENTINO
Laboratory Technician II
DA-PCC at Central Luzon State University

Ms. Tolentino is recognized for her significant contribution in facilitating the administrative and financial management at DA-PCC Central Luzon State University and in accomplishing its major final outputs. Her meritorious work attitude emphasizes her dedication and passion in performing her tasks.

GOT QUESTIONS
OR SUGGESTIONS?
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