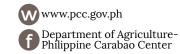


2018 Agricultural Newsletter of the Year



# Bubalus



Quarterly Newsletter of the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center

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# Intergenerational Farmers: Our hope for today and the future

#### By Dine Yve Daganos

Pedro Valles Jr., 46, and his son Pedro "Jay" Valles III, 22, of Tipolo, Ubay, both grew up in farming. Aside from planting crops, the father and son tandem

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# Agri-chief lauds DA-PCC's significant contribution to livestock, dairy industries

## By Ronaline Canute

Innovation, solid collaborations, and entrepreneurship, according to Department of Agriculture Secretary William Dar, are what summarize the DA-PCC's significant contributions to the local livestock and dairy industries.

In his speech as the keynote speaker

during the agency's 29th anniversary celebration last March 21-25 at the PCC National Headquarters and Gene Pool in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Secretary Dar lauds the agency for manifesting grit and resilience amid the pandemic through its milestones showcased during the weeklong celebration.

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# Editor's Word



We have much to celebrate and be grateful for.

Foremost, this year marks the 29th anniversary of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), as an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture (DA). Technically speaking, though, it should have been DA-PCC's 30th or pearl anniversary, as the agency was born out of RA 7307, which was signed as a law on March 27, 1992. Its funding and operations, however, started on April 1, 1993, thus the latter, by tradition, has been the reference year for the agency's anniversary celebrations. Be that as it may, in the span of almost three decades, the DA-PCC has proven, time and again, its worth as a leading government institution in the fields of livestock R&D, extension, and community development. Milestones after milestones, the agency has been very consistent and competent in carrying out its mandate.

Second, the COVID-19 pandemic, while still a major health concern worldwide, seems to be slowing down, gauging from the fewer number of new cases reported in many countries, including the Philippines. In fact, many areas in the country are already under Alert Level 1, which allows intrazonal and interzonal travels without regard to age and comorbidities and activities of people and establishments at full on-site or venue capacity provided that minimum health standards are followed. The DA-PCC is taking advantage of this favourable situation. That is why, the threepronged Carabao Development Program (i.e., genetic improvement, R&D, and enterprise development) is now, again, in full swing.

Finally, as a democratic country, we should be grateful to, once again, exercise our rights to elect our new leaders in the forthcoming national and local elections. They are expected to either legislate, execute meaningful programs, or institute necessary policies or reforms for the benefit of the populace. Let us look forward to an honest and peaceful election. Likewise, let us respect the voice of the electorates when the results finally come out. As a learned and civilized society, let us give our full support and cooperation to whoever wins fair and square. But let us be vigilant about the whole electoral process and not allow ourselves to be trapped to extremely partisan and dirty politics, which, unfortunately, are still pervasive. At the end of the day, it is (or should be) us who shape our own future.

Dr. Eric P. Palacpac

# About the cover

towards other professions, the Valles's belong to the thinning population of intergenerational farmers to whom hope for sustainable food production

PHILIPPINE CARABAD CENTER





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

Email us your comments, feedbacks, and suggestions at ilivestockbiotech@gmail.com or mail them to: The Editor, Bubalus Newsletter, Knowledge Management Division, Philippine Carabao Center National Headquarters and Gene Pool, Science City of Muñoz, 3120 Nueva Ecija. You may also call us at (044) 456 0731 to 35.

# **DA-PCC's Knowledge Booth** now open for public viewing

By Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano

Be in the know about the DA-Philippine Carabao Center's (DA-PCC) profile, banner program, and latest technology outputs through its recently launched Knowledge Booth.

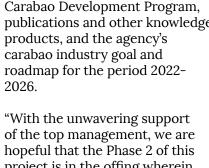
Initiated and conceptualized by the Learning Events Coordination Section of the DA-PCC's Knowledge Management Division (KMD), this one-stop information shop also serves as a showroom for carabao's milk and meat products and the latest technology products developed by its research and development team.

The Knowledge Booth houses informative and explorative materials, one of which is a 3D infographic miniature that details the milk and meat value chain diagram from production, collection, processing, to marketing of value-added dairy and meat products.

It also features various showcase walls for DA-PCC's Carabao Development Program, publications and other knowledge products, and the agency's carabao industry goal and roadmap for the period 2022-

project is in the offing wherein more advanced features and interactive materials will be showcased," KMD Chief Dr. Eric Palacpac said in his welcome remarks during the launching ceremony on March 23.

Also in attendance during the activity were DA-PCC OIC Executive Director Dr. Ronnie Domingo, Deputy Executive Director for Administration and Finance Dr. Caro Salces, Deputy Executive Director for Production and Research Dr. Claro Mingala, KMD staff members, and DA-PCC regional center directors. B



NEWS

# KBGAN iHealth. iFeed mobile apps to roll out in May

**By Coores Celoy** 

To help extension officers in providing prompt and timely services to clients on matters related to animal health and feeding management for dairy carabaos, the DA-PCC will roll mobile applications in May this

The KBGAN mobile apps are outputs of the project titled Information System (EASIS) Phase II, which aims to enhance the DA-PCC's services on dairy carabao information and communication

The project officially started in of Dr. Eric Palacpac, Chief of the in collaboration with the Grameen

During the 29th anniversary of DA-PCC, Dr. Palacpac demoed the mobile applications and announced the preparation for its roll out this coming May.

"Hopefully, we can cascade these apps in as many LGUs as possible Garcia SC ruling on devolution, our LGU technicians need tools such as this to better provide extension Dr. Palacpac said.

The KBGAN iHealth mobile app enables the end-user to diagnose carabao health conditions and

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# DA-PCC's knowledge products, extension services go digital

# By Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano

Contactless payments, online shopping, and virtual conferences and meetings are among the regular tasks borne out of the digital revolution that have now become a way of life due to the protracted pandemic.

Joining the digital transformation is the DA-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) that digitalized its extension and advisory services to ensure accessibility of its knowledge products by a wider audience.

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

"You can explore and navigate this portal like a website. Once you subscribe to this platform, you will be updated and notified through your email every time the agency has new publication releases," KMD Chief Dr. Eric Palacpac said.

Meanwhile, another digital innovation of the agency also through the KMD is the Virtual Tour of the DA-PCC national headquarters in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, which not only shows a glimpse of what it is like visiting the DA-PCC facilities

but also provides useful information about water buffalo production and accompanying technologies.

"As you click the link of the Virtual Tour, you are a step closer to this simulated but equally immersive learning experience right in the comfort of your homes or wherever you are currently located. This is very timely now that we're still in a pandemic situation," Dr. Palacpac averred.

The DA-PCC invites everyone to register and subscribe to its K-Portal through k-portal.pcc.gov.ph and Virtual Tour through vtour.pcc.gov. ph for them to be updated on the goings-on in the implementation of its program and services and to be aware not only of the significant results of research and development studies and undertakings of the agency but also of the opportunities in the carabao industry. [3]

# DA-PCC at CSU champs GAHP, paves way for worldclass livestock management

## By Dine Yve Daganos

The Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center at Cagayan State University (DA-PCC at CSU) in a formal ceremony held at Piat Campus received the certificate of compliance for Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) while being the first government agency to be recognized with the award nationwide.

The certificate was presented by Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) Region 2 Veterinary Quarantine Officer Dr. Benjamin Ike P. Paguyu. This was received by DA-PCC OIC Center Director Dr. Rovina R. Piñera and DA-PCC OIC Executive Director Dr. Ronnie D. Domingo.

Also gracing the event were DA Usec for Livestock Dr. William Medrano, DA Regional Executive Director for Region 2 Narciso A. Edillo, RTD for Operations and Extension Dr. Roberto C. Busania, RTD for Research and Regulatory Rosemary G. Aquino, Campus Executive Officer CSU-Piat Campus Vicente Binasoy, and former DA-PCC at CSU Center Director Prof. Franklin T. Rellin.

Prof. Rellin emphasized that the agency also holds ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management Systems)
Certification for six years now and is also the first government livestock research agency that is certified compliant to Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

"What motivated DA-PCC at CSU to vie for GAHP certification? This vision started in one of the Program Management Committee meetings held at the national headquarters of DA-PCC in Nueva Ecija in 2010 where Dr. Libertado Cruz, former

DA-PCC executive director, stated that he wants DA-PCC to become a world-class agency," Rellin narrated.

In his closing message, Dr. Domingo also challenged the other centers with institutional herds to emulate DA-PCC at CSU in upholding exemplary management practices and striving for national and international recognitions.

"We can do it!," he boosted.

GAHP is a set of principles in good practices and minimum requirements for commercial or backyard rearing of farm animals for food use. The code aims to ensure food safety and quality, protect and promote welfare of animals, promote health and safety of farm workers, and support environmental management. [3]

# IPs receive draft carabaos

By Paulyn Saturno

Ten draft carabaos and three bulls were distributed to Lirungan High Value Crop Vegetable Farmers Association and Balugto (Rainbow) Agroforestry Farmers Association during a turnover ceremony held on March 9 at the DA-PCC at Central Mindanao University in Maramag, Bukidnon.

Said associations are composed of upland farmers involved in the production of high value crops.

The carabaos given by DA-PCC will be used by the associations as source of draft power in their farming activities.

The associations are also planning to it is the passion, hardwork, and

produce organic fertilizers out of the vegetable scraps from their farms and carabao manure.
Chairpersons Randy Jhon Uy and Jobert Layocan were very grateful for the carabaos that they have received because among the many cooperatives and associations requesting for carabaos, they are the ones that had been chosen.

According to DA-PCC at CMU Center Director Lowell Paraguas, it is the passion, hardwork, and eagerness of these associations to utilize carabaos as another source of income towards achieving the Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita vision of DA, which led them to choose these associations as beneficiaries

Present in the turnover ceremony aside from Director Paraguas were DA-PCC OIC Executive Director Dr. Ronnie D. Domingo, BAI OIC-Executive Director Dr. Reildrin G. Morales, and DA Undersecretary for Livestock Dr. William C. Medrano.



# **SOA-DBP** graduation marks new opportunities in dairying for farmer-graduates

By Rodolfo Jr. Valdez

The Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center at USM (DA-PCC at USM) in partnership with the Agricultural Training Institute XI (ATI-XI) conferred the almost 200 farmer-enrollees of Davao del Sur as graduates of the first-ever School onthe-Air on Dairy Buffalo Production (SOA-DBP) in Region XI on March 18, 2022 in a ceremony held at the Davao del Sur Coliseum, Digos City.

During the mass graduation ceremony, Dr. Eric Palacpac, chief of DA-PCC's Knowledge Management Division, highlighted the purpose of SOA-DBP, which is to further reach buffalo raisers or carabao keepers



when disseminating knowledge, technologies, programs, and services in dairy buffalo production via radio broadcasting.

"Davao Region is ideal for buffalo production as it is home to almost 145,000 head of carabaos (2020 data). Davaoeños can contribute significantly to developing the local dairy industry by honing their knowledge and skills on buffalo dairying," Palacpac added.

Likewise, ATI-XI Director Dante Esguerra challenged the graduates coming from the municipalities of Bansalan, Hagonoy, Magsaysay, Matanao, and Kiblawan to practice

what they have learned in dairy buffalo production during their four months of learning through the radio.

"It is not about constant practice that makes you perfect, but instead it is correct practice that makes you perfect. I challenge you all to share the new technologies and knowledge you have gained from SOA-DBP," Director Esguerra said.

Moreover, DA-PCC at USM Center Director Benjamin John C. Basilio gave thanks to the farmers and partneragencies for their unending support to the carabao development program in the region.

lauded the agency for its teamwork and thorough preparedness and trailblazing efforts to digitize forms for: health monitoring record of staff; request for ICT repair or maintenance; and carrying out authorized approval of request to fortify key processes, among others.

"The DA-PCCNHQGP 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

"To the different local government units, agriculture and veterinary offices, we thank you for your unending support and time to be the channel of blessing for carabao development program for the farmers of Region XI. With our collective effort, we make things possible!" Director Basilio exclaimed.

Meanwhile, farmer-graduates shared their gratitude as SOA-DBP opens new door of opportunities in carabao keeping.

"SOA-DBP is a package deal. It gives us new knowledge on how to properly take care of our carabaos. At the same time, it introduced new opportunities to gain profit and to have additional income coming from carabao," Rene Mark Ybañez, SOA-DBP graduate, said.

Another graduation ceremony will be conducted for 95 farmer-enrollees from Davao Oriental on March 29 and 259 enrollees from Davao De Oro on March 30.

The SOA-DBP is a radio program with 16 lessons on Feeding Management, Health Management, Breeding Management, Carabao Enterprise, and Technology adoption. It started on November 2021 and aired in DXRD 711Mhz with livestreaming via ATI-XI and DA-PCC at USM Facebook pages. 

B

its overall management system and validating the effectiveness of its performance through the annual external audits," Minda Diloy, DA-PCC's Integrated Management Representative, stated.

This year, the agency is on its 7th certification cycle on QMS and 4th cycle for both EMS and OHSMS.

Currently, eight out of 12 regional centers of DA-PCC have already been certified to ISO 9001. The remaining centers, on the other hand, have also stepped up to the plate and undergone necessary preparations for their certification within the year through the assistance of the agency's Management Systems Audit Team headed by Ms. Diloy. 📵

# DA-PCC, partner co-op kick off first-ever FLS-DBP in Cotabato

By Rodolfo Jr. Valdez

The DA-Philippine Carabao Mindanao in collaboration with Sta. Catalina Multi-Purpose Cooperative launched the firstever Farmer Livestock School on Dairy Buffalo Production (FLS-DBP) in Cotabato Province.

During the opening program held on March 16, DA-PCC Knowledge Management Division Chief Dr. on the importance and goal of farmers to discover and learn testing until they can develop the right and suitable technologies for their localities, problems,

"FLS-DBP offers you a basket technology. We will let you select which practices fit in your local with traditional trainings, FLS-DBP gives bite-sized information for your easy digestion or intake of knowledge," Rovelyn Jacang, KMD Staff, added.

In addition, DA-PCC at USM Center Director Benjamin John attending learning events.

"We can gain knowledge by attending different trainings. Also through sharing of experiences can replicate in your respective farms. Fortunately, the FLS-DBP focuses on this approach of learning by collecting ideas, different farmers," Director Basilio said.

On the same day, Jacang together Nasrola Ibrahim, Raquel Bermudez, Airene Rigon, and Rodolfo Valdez Jr. of DA-PCC facilitated the first two lessons, which are understanding the FLS-DBP and the potential of dairy buffalo

Moreover, former graduates of FLS-DBP such as Jessa Grace Casanillo, Rodante Constantino Jr., and Dominic Paclibar were invited to facilitate and discuss lessons for the succeeding classes.

This year's FLS-DBP, first-ever in Cotabato province and second in Region XII, is a season-long workshop that will run every Friday until July 8, 2022, which will be

Meanwhile, Sta. Catalina MPC Operations Manager Wendell selected co-op member-enrollees in FLS-DBP to actively participate.

"One of the bases for you to avail buffalo is by attending related trainings. The DA-PCC at USM buffalo production," reminded

Sta. Catalina MPC in Pres. Roxas, PCC under the ALAB-Karbawan farming. Eventually, the co-op animals for the betterment of their members who have enough knowledge on dairying. B

# **DA-PCC HQ** passes surveillance audit, sustains IMS certification

#### By Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano

The DA-Philippine Carabao Center National Headquarters and Gene Pool (DA-PCCNHQGP) is recommended anew for **Integrated Management Systems** (IMS) certification validity after successfully passing the first surveillance audit on the three management system standards.

Worldwide Quality Assurance (WQA) Phils Inc. conducted the audit on March 7 remotely confirming the agency's commitment to providing

quality products and services as well as compliance with legal, statutory and other requirements in accordance with its Integrated Management Systems, which include Quality Management System (QMS)-ISO 9001; Environmental Management System (EMS)-ISO 14001; and Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS)-ISO 45001.

During the closing meeting, the auditors cited positive findings and

(With reports from Minda Diloy)



2022 National Women's Month Celebration

# WE Make CHANGE **Work for WOMEN**

March 1-31, 2022

























# **DA-PCC** celebrates gains in gender equality, women's empowerment

### By Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano

As an institution that fosters gender sensitivity, the DA-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) signifies support in the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) by conducting a number of activities in celebration of the National Women's Month.

Included in the activity is the "Serbisyo para kay Juana" wherein women clients of DA-PCC's Milka Krem products outlet will be offered with a one-day 5% discount for all its products on International Women's Day (March 8) as a form of appreciation for women's various contributions in the society.

Other activities lined up for the celebration are conducting of Women's Month Wellness Break (Zumba), wearing of anything purple (recognized as the color of women that symbolizes justice and dignity) on Tuesdays for the whole month of March and organizing of gender and development (GAD)related learning events such as Orientation on Safe Spaces Act and Magna Carta on March 23, GAD Orientation for Cooperatives on March 29, and Gender Sensitivity Training ++ on March 28. This year's celebration is

anchored on the theme: "We Make Change Work for Women: Agenda ng Kababaihan, Tungo sa Kaunlaran", which focuses on including women's concerns in the government agenda and enabling more women to implement at the same time demand programs and services that can bring the country closer to narrowing the gender gaps and moving towards sustainable and equitable development.

"We, at DA-PCC, are dedicated to provide quality services that are GAD responsive. We make sure that our women clients are not left behind in accessing our services. We also organize activities that recognize valuable roles of women in society for inclusive and sustainable development," Aimee Fulgencio, DA-PCC's GAD focal person, stated.

She added that the agency will continue to assess gender equality efforts and look forward to steps leading to the progress in empowering women.

The 2022 National Women's Month celebration highlights the extraordinary roles of Juanas in the society as trailblazers and 

# **DA-PCC** organizes fitness activity in celebration of Int'l Women's Day

## By Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano

3 AGENDA NG

Tungo sa Kaunlaran

In observance of the International Women's Day (IWD) Celebration, the DA-Philippine Carabao Center conducted a Women's Month Wellness Break Zumba activity among the employees.

This year's observance focuses on the theme "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow" in recognition and celebration of the women and girls who are leading the charge on climate change adaptation and response and to honour their leadership and contribution towards a sustainable future.

Employees also strike the IWD #BreakTheBias pose to actively call out gender bias, discrimination, and stereotyping in the workplaces, communities, schools, universities and other areas. This also serves as a reminder of a gender equal world that is diverse, equitable, inclusive while differences are valued and celebrated.

Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions all day, every day.

Together, we can all break the bias on International Women's Day and beyond. 🗈

**ALAB Karbawan** projects in Regions 11, 12, undergo situation analysis for KM interventions

By Ronaline Canute

recently with key stakeholders and of the Carabao-based Business Improvement Network (CBIN) and Coconut-Carabao Development Project (CCDP) in Regions 11 and 12.

The "Planning-Workshop Interventions for CBIN/CCDP Projects", facilitated by the DA-PCC's was initially conducted for the project sites covered by DA-PCC (DA-PCC at CLSU), DA-PCC at West Visayas State University (DA-PCC at WVSU), DA-PCC at Visayas State

University (DA-PCC at VSU), and DA-PCC at University of Southern Mindanao (DA-PCC at USM).

For Regions 11 and 12, among the issues consolidated during the of products and Dairy Boxes, provision of post-harvest equipment, continuous upgrading of

During the activity, the agency's support for the project by ensuring that the recipients will faithfully and diligently do their part in the

Basilio of DA-PCC at USM said DA-PCC will continue to serve as a channel of blessing to industry partners and stakeholders in Mindanao. He developments that have happened since the start of the project.

commitment of support for the

Office of the Senate Committee Reform chaired by Senator Cynthia Villar. The same funding support is given to the CCDP in partnership with the DA-Philippine Coconut Authority. B



#### From Page 3

recomends immediate intervensions. Said recommendations can be forwarded to the farmer through SMS or text message.

On the other hand, the KBGAN iFeed allows the end-user to formulate feed ration based on the actual data (e.g. animal category, live weight, stage

of lactation, etc.) being asked in the application.

The development of the iHealth app was in collaboration with the DA-PCC's Biosafety and Environment Section with the leadership of Dr. Marvin Villanueva and the iFeed with the Production System and Nutrition Section with the leadership of Mary Rose Uy.

Dr. Palacpac also extends his gratitude to all project proponents who took part in the development of the KBGAN mobile apps. (3)

# 6th ILBS highlights eco-conscious livestock production

#### By Marah Arquero

In order to bridge the gap brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, which restricted many people from attending face-to-face seminars and trainings, the Department of Agriculture - Livestock Biotechnology Center, together with the DA-Philippine Carabao Center and DA-Biotechnology Program Office, held the 6th International Livestock Biotechnology Symposium on February 22 via a virtual meeting platform attended by over 200 local and international participants.

Coalescing two subjects that are rarely discussed together in scientific dialogues and fora, the symposium aims to provide awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the processes and dynamics revolving around the livestock sector including its effects to the environment.

Local and international speakers discussed topics ranging from gene editing, climate change, reduction of methane emission of lactating cows to transgenic technologies for adaption of livestock to warmer climates in line with this year's theme, "Research and Innovations Promoting Positive and Synergistic Relationship Between the Livestock Industry and Climate Change".

The symposium underscored the need for the agriculture sector, specifically the livestock sector to recalibrate strategies in achieving sustainable food security with significantly lesser effects on the environment and improve resiliency to climate change.

Featured presentations and open forum further highlighted how biotechnology applications can mitigate effects of livestock production on the environment and climate change.

Resource persons include Climate Change Commission Consultant, Dr. Leoncio A. Amadore, Professor of Animal Genomics and Biotechnology University of California - Davis, Dr. Alison L. Van Eenennaam; Agricultural Inspector of Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda, Dr. Brendah Kembabazi and Principal Scientist Animal Biotech, AgResearch Ruakura, New Zealand, Dr. Goetz Laible. 🕒

# **DA-PCC** distributes start-up materials to carapreneurs

#### By Paulyn Saturno

As part of the DA-PCC at Ubay Stock Farm's (DA-PCC at USF) Odette Recovery Plan, newly recruited carapreneurs in Ubay received milk pails and sacks of silage as start-up materials for their dairy enterprise.

The farmers were really grateful for the support and assistance extended to them by the DA-PCC in these challenging times due to



the pandemic and the devastating effects of typhoon Odette.

Present in the short ceremony were Undersecretary for Livestock Dr. William C. Medrano, DA-PCC OIC Executive Director Ronnie D. Domingo, Regional Executive Director Joel A. Elumba, Provincial Veterinarian Dr. Bing Lapiz, and Deputy Executive Director for

Administration and Finance Caro B. Salces.

Alongside the said activity, USec. Medrano had a short visit to the facilities of DA-PCC at USF, which were greatly affected by the onslaught of the recent typhoon Odette that hit the eastern part of Visayas. 😉



# Agri-chief lauds...

From Page 1

Aptly bearing the theme, "Achieving Milestones through Grit and Resiliency," the DA-PCC showcased based Business Improvement Network and the Coconut-Carabao national milk feeding program; Philippines of PCC developed of the KBGAN iHealth and iFeed Certification of DA-PCC at CSU's Institutional Herd; appointment as National Livestock Cryobank; and sustained ISO certifications.

The DA Chief also challenged the DAcarry out product research and

development in the country.

research programs and application of results, as well as private sector investments. These, he said, will boost milk production in the country.

Dr. Ronnie Domingo, DA-PCC's OIC-Executive Director, assured that the Industry Roadmap for 2022-2026, the implementation of the Schoolbased Milk Feeding Program, and the operation of the Carabao-based Business Improvement Network and Coconut-Carabao Development

On the other hand, Senator Cynthia Villar. Chair of the Senate Committee wishes to the agency saying that she commends the agency for overcoming the pandemic and the obstacles to fully

realize its mandate. She said her office will continue to advocate and support

strengthen employee engagement were conducted during the weeklong celebration. These included the National Women's Month celebration, mental health awareness and wellness, launching of the Knowledge Booth,

It was during the latter that five of the agecy's Outstanding Employees were: Benjamin John Basilio, Center Director of DA-PCC at USM, as Outstanding Center Director; Dr. Thelma Saludes, Center Director of DA-PCC at UPLB, as Outstanding Researcher; Dr. Edward Paraguison, at CLSU, as Outstanding Supervisor; Janice Cuaresma, CBED coordinator of DA-PCC at LCSF, as Outstanding Support Staff. **B** 

# DA-PCC holds planning-workshop on KM interventions for ALAB Karbawan project

By Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano

DA-PCC's Knowledge Management Division (KMD) team members, DA-PCC at Central Luzon State University program implementers, and select provincial veterinarians in Region III convened in a hybrid (online and on-site with minimum safety and health protocols) strategic planningworkshop on Knowledge Management (KM) interventions for Accelerating Livelihood and Assets Buildup (ALAB)-Karbawan project on January 25 in Bagac, Bataan.

Said activity is in support of the project "Strengthening the ALAB-Karbawan Project through Herd Build-up" being implemented by the DA-PCC and sponsored by the office of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform Chairperson Sen. Cynthia Villar.

Specifically, the workshop aimed to deliver real-time accessibility of knowledge products and engage provincial and local government units and value chain civil society organizations in the production of knowledge products and capacity building of clients.

Among the outputs derived from the workshop included calibration of KM interventions based on the results of situational analysis, development of action plans in response to the current issues identified by the LGU partners, and declaration of commitment of involved beneficiaries.

Aside from Region III, other regions with the most number of ALAB-Karbawan sites such as Regions IV-A, V, VI, VIII, XI and XII will also undergo the same planning-workshop for the KMD team to identify and propose KM interventions needed for a sustainable implementation of the project.  $oldsymbol{\Theta}$ 

# DA-PCC strengthens partnership with coconut-carabao project implementers in Region 8 on KM

**By Coores Celoy** 

DA-PCC at Visayas State
University with the Knowledge
Management Division team from
the DA-PCC national headquarters
in Nueva Ecija worked in tandem
for a strategic communication
planning-workshop for ALAB
Karbawan project in Region 8
covering the provinces of Leyte,
Southern Leyte, Samar, Northern
Samar, and Biliran last February
24 at the Visayas State University,
Baybay City, Leyte.

Select key implementers and stakeholders of the Coconut-Carabao Development Project (CCDP) participated in the said workshop.

The said activity aimed to determine the issues and concerns in the implementation of the CCDP and identify their corresponding KM interventions.

Among the identified concerns of stakeholders are inadequate knowledge on buffalo production and management and operational issues related to the full implementation of the Mandanas-Garcia Supreme Court ruling which directs the full devolution or transfer of certain executive branch functions to LGUs.

Following the situation analysis, interventions on learning events through the KMD-Learning Events Coordination Section and strategic communication through the KMD-Applied Communication Section were presented and agreed by all parties.

The CCDP is one of the projects being implemented by the DA-PCC and the DA-Philippine Coconut Authority, which aims to attain a viable and sustainable carabao-based enterprises in the country complemented by increased coconut farm productivity.

The activity was capped with a pledge of commitment by all attending project partners and stakeholders. 

③



Project implementers and stakeholders pledge their commitment in the implementation of the project.

# PVMA hails DA-PCC scientist as 'Outstanding Veterinarian in Government Service'

#### By Ronaline Canute

The Philippine Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA) recognized Dr. Edwin C. Atabay, of the DA-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC), as this year's Outstanding Veterinarian in Government Service during its 89th Scientific Conference and Annual Convention awarding ceremony on February 17, 2022.

The award is an initiative of the PVMA, a sister organization of the Philippine Medical Association whose aim is to bring together qualified Filipino veterinarians who have been approved by the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC).

Dr. Atabay is currently the Senior Science Research Specialist of the Reproduction and Physiology Section under the Research Development Division. He is also the National Technical Coordinator on Reproduction, the Program Coordinator for DA-PCC's Artificial Insemination and Bull Entrustment Programs of the PCC, and a technical expert for the Department of Agriculture's Unified National Artificial Insemination Program. He is also a Career Scientist II under the DOST's SCS.

His fields of specialization are Veterinary Medicine and Animal Reproductive Biotechnology. His research interests also include reproductive biotechnology (in vitro embryo production, cryopreservation of semen, embryos, oocytes, and somatic cells, artificial insemination, pregnancy diagnosis, cloning, and embryo transfer).

He is actively involved in S&T activities that result in the development of technology and innovations for increasing water buffalo and other ruminant species' pregnancy and productivity.

Moreover, he was the driving force behind the creation and implementation of the Intensified Reproductive Management Program, which encourages technological improvements in reproduction to boost livestock reproductive efficiency.

Dr. Atabay earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Veterinary Medicine at the Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan and Masters in Animal Science at the Central Luzon State University.

In the latter part of 2021, Dr. Atabay was also recognized as the 2021 Achievement Awardee of the National Research Council of the Philippines-Division of Veterinary Medicine.

"Do what you say," Dr. Atabay replied when asked what his secret to all of his accomplishments was. •

# DAR extends support to carabao dairy co-op

#### By Paulyn Saturno

Through the Village Level Farm-Focused Enterprise Development (VLFED) Project of the Provincial Agrarian Reform Office of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)-Nueva Ecija, the Bongabon Dairy Cooperative (BDC) was awarded PhP300,000 for the processing equipment and the enhancement of the cooperative's dairy processing center.

Said intervention marks the start of the challenge to BDC to process milk and contribute to the demand of the national milk feeding program. Pangarap at pagkakaisa. These are the key factors to a successful cooperative, said Chairperson Mario Dela Cruz. Rising from the ranks, the BDC was one amongst the newly established dairy cooperatives in Nueva Ecija, being assisted by the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC).

Chairperson dela Cruz was very emotional while delivering his message for the overwhelming support that the government has given to their cooperative. They promised that they will make these blessings prosper in exchange for the effort and hardwork of the people behind to make this project possible.

Present in the event were DAR's Secretary Bernie F. Cruz,

Undersecretary Lucius G. Malsi,
Assistant Secretary Maria Celestina
M. Tam, Provincial Agrarian Reform
Officer Eden Ponio, and other
officials from DAR-Nueva Ecija. Also
in attendance to show support were
DAR's partner agencies namely DAPCC headed by its OIC Executive
Director Dr. Ronnie D. Domingo,
Department of Trade and IndustryNueva Ecija represented by Mr. Micko
R. Dela Cruz, and Mayor Allan Xystus
A. Gamilla.

The said project is in line with the DA's battlecry towards Masaganing Ani at Mataas na Kita among our local farmers. 3



# Young carapreneurs: Our hope for today and the future

#### From Page 1

have also added carabao-raising and dairy production in their business venture. The Valles's belong to the thinning population of intergenerational farmers to whom hope for sustainable food production is pinned.

For a long time, the employment profile of Bohol province was mostly agriculture-based. According to the Bohol Provincial Planning and Development Office, a total of 184,847 hectares or roughly 45% of the total land area of the province is devoted to agriculture—with livestock and poultry as two of the major commodities.

Jay and his family planted crops and vegetables like banana, coconut, rice, and pumpkin. In 2019, they started producing carabao's milk from the two Italian Murrah buffaloes that were entrusted to them by DA-PCC in 2014. Another bull was loaned out to the family in 2019, which produced two offspring, giving them a total of five carabaos.

Jay's family used to own native carabaos that were harnessed in plowing their field during planting season. However, when his father had a chance to attend the Farmer Livestock School on Dairy Buffalo Production (FLS-DBP) facilitated by DA-PCC, he saw a promising future in carapreneurship and immediately applied for a bull loan.

Like any young people, Jay tried once to search for better opportunities outside the province. After completing his course under the Alternative Learning System (ALS) Program of the Department of Education (DepEd) in 2020, he made a bold decision to move to Bulacan. He travelled over a thousand miles from his hometown and settled in a foreign place that initially gave him a rather

disconcerting vibe. There, he spent a year as a warehouse worker whose job was to package products for delivery. He also tried being a tricycle driver for three months and then spent another month as a service boy in a water refilling station. Soon, Jay felt worn out shifting from one job to another and decided to return to the province.

Once again, he found himself grazing carabaos in the vast pasture of Tipolo. Only this time, he found a new sense of meaning and fulfillment plus the realization that tending carabaos is not as heavy a workload as compared with his previous jobs.

"This is such a relief for me because now I have time to rest after I'm done with farm chores, which thankfully do not require that I work all day long," he said.

"Milk collection only takes minutes and feeding, among other activities, do not take too much of our time," Jay added.

While the young carapreneur is focused on their dairy business, he devotes his free time on a side job as a dragon fruit picker in a nearby plantation for extra income.

#### Good practices in carapreneurship

When it comes to good practices in carabao production and management, Jay said it all comes naturally because he loves what he's doing. He gives extra care in ensuring that the carabaos are properly fed and vitamin supplementation is administered regularly. He also makes sure that treatments are timely given when necessary. He said he is grateful to DA-PCC at Ubay Stock Farm for these services.

Jay also practices proper milk collection and handling and strictly

observes sanitation of the milking cows and the milking facility.

According to Jay, each of their carabaos can produce four to six liters of milk a day, which they sell at Php50 per liter. The cows are milked daily between 6 am to 7 am.

#### Challenges in Carapreneurship

Barangay Tipolo could be unfavorable during summer. Compared to other livestock, carabaos are particularly more sensitive to heat. Those that are grazed and normally douse in lakes or puddles would get stressed with the absence of a water source to quench their thirst or to soak in.

The onslaught of typhoon Odette last December also affected their business. The number of buyers declined and one of their milking carabaos suddenly stopped producing. Jay and his family suspected that it could be because of the stress brought by strong winds from the recent typhoon.

Jay's family is just thankful that their family was spared from the wrath of the typhoon while neighboring barangays are unfortunately still reeling from the onslaught.

#### The hope of food sustainability

With opportunities lying ahead of him, Jay said he has no intention of exploring a new career elsewhere as he sees carapreneurship as a rewarding profession. He said if others see lowly of this profession, he sees it otherwise and is firm in his belief that carapreneurship can contribute to nation building.

"The youth should start looking at farming as a profitable business venture. Raising Carabaos is sometimes even more fulfilling as it helps contribute to food security," he said. "If we lose our farmers, people will have no food. If we lose the young generation of farmers, the future will be uncertain," he further added.

As we continue to address the serious decline and the waning interest in agriculture especially among the youth, farmers like Jay who decided to tread on the same path as their parents in agriculture are what sustains our tenacity to keep producing for the sake of today and the future.





#### DIR. BENJAMIN JOHN C. BASILIO

**Outstanding Center Director** 

For his resolute leadership as demonstrated in his innovative thinking networking competencies, which led the effective implementation of Carabao Development Program in Regions XI and XII. The impact of his leadership is meaningfully felt and seen at the community level where a stream of benefits from CDP implementation is manifested the many changed lives in the region. These include other tangible outputs such as calves borne out of AI services and bull dispersal that provided additional income for farmers, improved the nutrition of the communities and generated jobs in the countryside.

#### **EDWARD C. PARAGUISON**

**Outstanding Supervisor** 

For his exemplary performance as Outstanding Supervisor and dedicated Farm Manager of DA-PCC at CLSU and for improving the performance of DA-PCC at CLSU Dairy Farm. He demonstrated dedication to lead the implementation of the dairy development and production program of the center and the excellent management of its institutional herd. His leadership proved to usher successful implementation of the Carabao Development Program in the service areas of DA-PCC at CLSU.

# JANICE H. CUARESMA Outstanding Development Officer

For her untiring efforts in performing not only her duties as CBED coordinator but also her excellent performance of related activities that contribute to DA-PCC at WVSU's achievement of its major final outputs. She strategically helped cooperative

of its major final outputs. She strategically helped cooperative development in the center's impact areas which improved farmers' incomes and the recipient communities' nutritional status through the active participation in the Milk Feeding Program of the DepEd and DSWD under RA 11037, Carabao-based Business Improvement Network, and Coconut-Carabao Development Projects.

# THELMA A. SALUDES Outstanding Researcher

For her exemplary publication, conduct, presentation and dissemination of her research, which proved to increase the production efficiency of not only the institutional herd at the PCC at UPLB but also the center's assisted cooperatives. Her profound practice of her profession contributed in the technological and scientific breakthroughs that created significant impact on the DA-PCC's research and development initiatives in Southern Luzon.

# ROLLY C. ARDEÑO Outstanding Support Staff

For his untiring support and valuable contribution as GIP Coordinator of DA-PCC at LCSF in the attainment of the objectives of the DA-PCC's Genetic Improvement Program. For his dedication, active involvement and collaborative effort in sustaining the progress of the Carabao Development Program in Negros Island through artificial insemination, leading to the steady growth of carabao population in the center's coverage areas.





#### **KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

Top Performing Operating Unit-National Headquarters

For being the overall Top Performing Operating Unit at the national headquarters with a total rating of 102.03% based on the Major Final Outputs dashboard indicators and for consistently exhibiting exemplary performance as evidenced by its contribution to the DA-PCC's Extension Support Education and Training Services;

For leading various communication and learning events interventions in support of the Carabao-based Business Improvement Network and Coconut-Carabao Development Project or ALAB Karbawan, which are two of the agency's banner projects under the Carabao-based Enterprise Development Program; and

For digitalizing the agency's extension and advisory services to ensure accessibility of its knowledge products by a wider audience.



## DA-PCC AT MARIANO MARCOS STATE UNIVERSITY

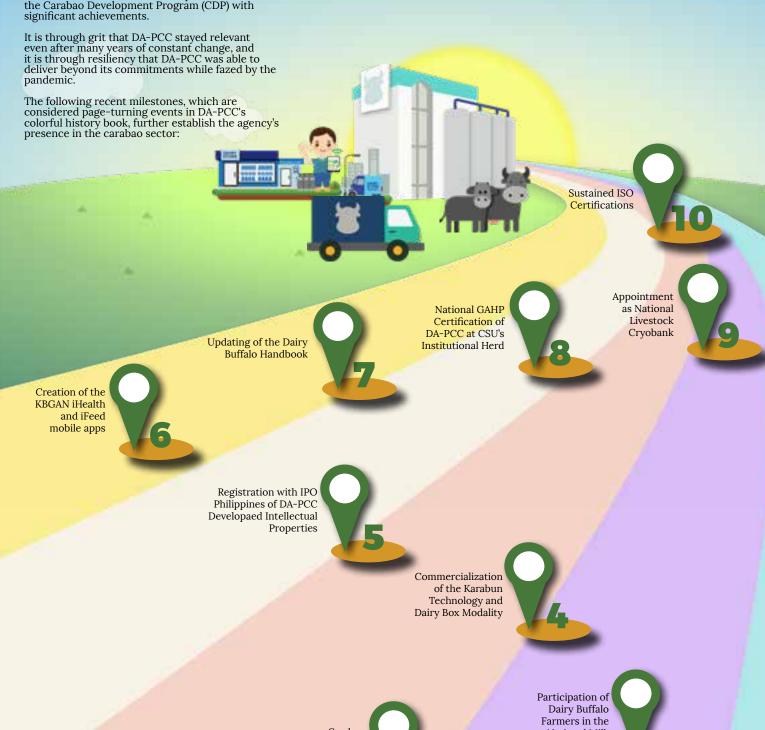
Top Performing Operating Unit-Regional Center

For being the overall Top Performing Unit - Regional Center with a total rating of 94.35% based on the Major Final Outputs dashboard indicators and as evidenced by its impact and contribution to the Agency's overall program. Its excellent performance of its functions has expanded the base of the center's clientele-farmers and partners in the Ilocos Region through production support, research for development, and extension support and education training services.

# **Carabao Development Milestones**

#### By Ronaline Canute and Ma. Cecilia Irang-Mariano

After nearly three decades, the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) has remained steadfast in the implementation of the Carabao Development Program (CDP) with













The Carabao Industry Roadmap supports the One DA Reform Agenda on transformative interventions that will help consolidate, modernize, industrialize, and professionalize Philippine agriculture. It is a master plan that is inclusive, stakeholder-crafted and market-driven. It is designed to help improve farmers' income, create jobs, and increase the number of carabaos in the Philippines to become self-sufficient.



ALAB-Karbawan is an umbrella program initiative and popularized name for two province-wide Carabao-based Enterprise Development implementation projects namely Carabao-based Business Improvement Network (CBIN) and Coconut-Carabao Development Project (CCDP), both initiated and funded by the Office of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform Chairperson Senator Cynthia Villar.

The CBIN and CCDP are expected to start up or improve dairy development in the identified provinces through entrustment of dairy buffaloes, engagement of processing plants and outlets to pursue carabao-based business ventures, and provision of capabilitybuilding and technical support services.



The implementation of the milk feeding program, led by the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) through the help of assisted cooperatives of DA-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) nationwide, had supplied the milk requirements of 2,635,329 undernourished children in S.Y. 2019-2022 under the DepEd's School-Based Feeding Program and 60,644 beneficiaries for DSWD's Supplementary Feeding Program in SY 2020-2022.



The DA-PCC, through its Research and Development Division (RDD), developed the Karabun, a nutrient-rich bread made with fresh carabao's milk, to help boost the immune systems of the vulnerable sector, especially children, because the amount of protein and carbohydrates in one glass of milk is equivalent to one Karabun.



Currently, the DA-PCC has a total of 5 patent applications, 20 Utility models, 13 trademarks, some of which are registered including Dairy Box, VeriSire, A2Choice, Prolipig, Buro Booster, Nyogurt, QuickCare, BlockMate, Kardeli, and Karabun.



KBGAN iHealth Application. Developed to help extension officers (EOs) and field veterinarians diagnose carabao health conditions and diseases and provide farmers with appropriate recommendations that they can follow. The application will assess and present possible health issues and suggest actions that farmers can take to improve the health of the carabao/s.

KBGAN iFeed Application. Developed to help Nutritionist, EOs, Vet aides and farmers compute the appropriate and least cost feed composition for proper nourishment and optimum milk production of dairy buffaloes. The application will also load data on the Suggested Retail Price (SRP) of feed ingredients, which can be pulled from the online system.



This handbook aims to provide sound, science-based standards to enhance the skills and confidence of the dairy buffalo farm manager in implementing practical yet relevant steps and processes to improve the performance, growth, production, and reproduction of dairy buffaloes.



The Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center (DA-PCC) at Cagayan State University (CSU) becomes the first government-owned farm that received the certificate of compliance for Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP).

GAHP is a set of principles in good practices and minimum requirements for commercial or backyard rearing of farm animals for food use. The code aims to ensure food safety and quality, protect and promote welfare of animals, promote health and safety of farm workers, and support environmental



The National Livestock Cryobank will aid in the advancement of research for development (R4D) works on ex situ cryo conservation for animal genetic resources (AnGR) from diverse livestock species towards conservation, management, and utilization, leading to sustainable animal production systems.

These endeavors are seen to sustain the genetic diversity of livestock species such as buffalo, cattle, and goat, among others, in the country and to provide a source of genetics to be used by farmers, livestock breeders, and other interested clients.



The DA-Philippine Carabao Center National Headquarters and Gene Pool (DA-PCCNHQGP) 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 Environmental Management System (EMS) -ISO 14001 and Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS) - ISO 45001, all certifiable to the International

# GOT QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS?

# **CONTACT US**



www.pcc.gov.ph



Department of Agriculture-Philippine Carabao Center



Philippine Carabao Center



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#### DA-PCC K-Portal



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

## DA-PCC Virtual Tour



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