

CY 2016

Annual Report

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CARAGA REGION

ABOUT THE Cover

Shaping DA-Future: Strengthening Agriculture

The cover page depicts an Eagle flying high loaded with various agricultural support services. This portrayed the DA's effort to shape the future of the agricultural sector in Caraga. Driven with passion and determination for service, DA Caraga will continue to rally its mission to empower the farmers and fisherfolk in the region.

Along this journey, various challenges may be encountered, but just like an Eagle, DA will continue to soar high above these challenges to bring transformation in the farming and fishing communities so that no one should ever be left behind.

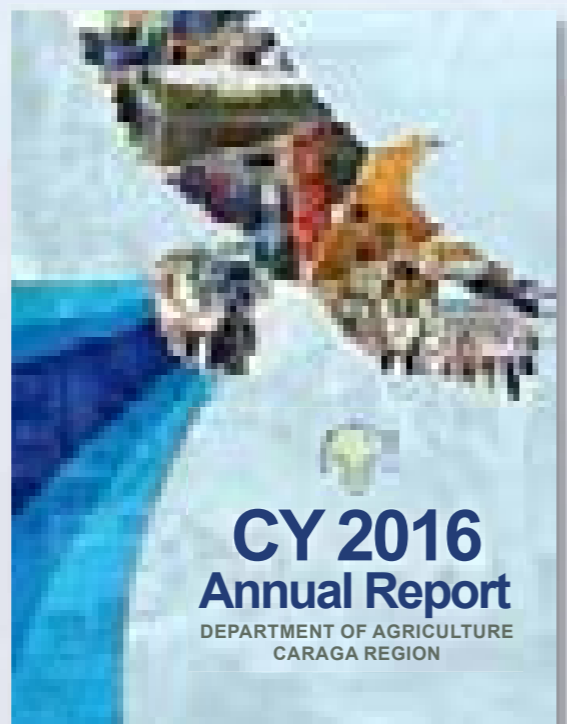


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REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S Message



Change is here and this has significantly empowered the farming and fishing communities to produce enough, accessible and affordable food for every Filipino amidst difficulties encountered.

The year 2016 challenged us to continuously find means and mitigate the effects of El Niño and we have done it! Corn production has increased by 21.68 percent or an equivalent of 25,754.90 metric tons from the last year's output of 118,774 metric tons. This contributed to an increase in yield of 15.40 percent or 0.43 metric tons per hectare. The livestock volume of production increased by 6.74 percent or 3,008 metric tons this year.

Our commitment to provide state-of-the-art facilities to our farmers and fisherfolks resulted to the completion and operationalization of the 31M Siargao Island Agri-Pinoy Trading Center in Dapa, Surigao del Norte and 3.5M Village Type Corn Postharvest Processing Center in Barangay Pinana-an, Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte.

Along with the involvement of the stakeholders, we initiated the crafting of the 2017-2040 Commodity Roadmaps for rice, corn, cassava, rubber, cacao, coffee, banana, mango, ruminants, swine and poultry. These roadmaps will unite all the different sectors on a defined vision to facilitate consensus on the implementation approaches and investments.

We have enabled our partner-exhibitors showcased agri-aqua products of local farmers and entrepreneurs during the conduct of the Caraga Agricultural Trade and Marketing Exposition (CARAT) 2016, generating a top gross sale of P476, 559.00.

A total of 9,788 individual farmers and 370 farmer groups region-wide received various agricultural inputs, technologies, machineries and infrastructures.

The goal of uplifting the lives of our stakeholders does not only end thru our interventions, rather we also provide healthier food options thru the launching of the #BROWN4good Challenge. We have distributed a total of 1,250kg of brown rice to five charities in Caraga as a result of active participation of our advocates.

This is also another year to be proud of, as our LGU partners have again bagged numerous awards in the National Quality Corn Achievers Congress. Caraga has been a consistent awardee in the National Quality Corn Achievers. The Provincial Local Government Unit of Agusan del Norte was recognized again in the Outstanding Province category and earned them a spot in the Hall of Fame. We also take pride for the recognitions given to Mr. Alvin P. Aclan and Mr. Oscar S. Tuyor being the sole Hall of Fame Awardees for the Outstanding Provincial Agriculturist and Provincial Corn Coordinator categories respectively. These achievements prove the unwavering support and development of our partners. Congratulations to all of us!

These are just glimpses of all the remarkable accomplishments we had for the year - accomplishments which we would not have done without your support as partners. Our sincerest thanks to all our farmers, fisherfolk, civil society organizations, other government agencies, Regional Management Committee members and Local Government Units for these triumphs.

For the years ahead, DA-Caraga will carry on these changes - changes for better development and innovation, as we continue to aim greater heights with you, our allies. The change has come and it has done well. It has been an amazing journey with all of you!

Maraming salamat po!

RENATO P. MANANTAN
OIC, Regional Executive Director

MANDATE The Department is the government agency responsible for the promotion of agricultural development by providing the policy framework, public investments, and support services needed for domestic and export-oriented business enterprises.

In the fulfillment of this mandate, it shall be the primary concern of the Department to improve farm income and generate work opportunities for farmers, fishermen and other rural workers. It shall encourage people's participation in agricultural development through sectoral representation in agricultural policy-making bodies so that the policies, plans and programs of the Department are formulated and executed to satisfy their needs.

It shall also use a bottom-up self-reliant farm system approach that will emphasize social justice, equity, productivity and sustainability in the use of agricultural resources.

VISION The Department's vision is a competitive, sustainable, and technology-based agriculture and fishery sector, driven by productive and progressive farmers and fisherfolk, supported by efficient value chains and well integrated in the domestic and international markets contributing to inclusive growth and poverty reduction.

MISSION To help and empower the farming and fishing communities and the private sector to produce enough, accessible and affordable food for every Filipino and a decent income for all.

Accomplishments Worth Noting

Crafting of Commodity Roadmaps

To reveal gaps in the provision of various agricultural interventions, and to prioritize investment to address the needs of the farmers, 11 commodity roadmaps were crafted. This was realized with the involvement of all the different NGAs, LGUs and farmer-leaders.

Commodities included were rice, corn, cassava, rubber, cacao, coffee, banana, mango, ruminants, swine, and poultry. These roadmaps served as guide and reference in providing support and investments for the development of the industry.

“Tabo” sa DA

Among the significant activity this year is the “Tabo sa DA” every quencena which started on July, 2016. This created linkage between rice producers like the Sto. Niño Multi-Purpose Cooperative and some institutional buyers in Butuan City. This also provided the small farmers of a direct market of their produce without spending too much on transportation cost and market stall fee. Total sales amounted to ₱127, 780.00 in just six months.

Conduct of CARAT Expo

The conduct of the Caraga Agricultural Trade and Marketing Exposition (CARAT) 2016 was one of the highlights of the region.

The support of the Department of Agriculture-Caraga through its Agri-Business and Marketing Assistance Division in staging the first ever CARAT Expo has showcased the agri-aqua products of the region. This is in collaboration with Caraga Chamber of Commerce, WINROCK International, DTI, DOST, BFAR, PCA, FIDA, DOT, DOLE, TESDA, DAR and the LGUs of Caraga Region. The event has generated a total sales of ₱1,800,000.00. The DA-Caraga supported exhibitors posted close to half a million pesos (₱476,559.00) sales and was the top grosser among the participating agencies.

CARAT 2016 also gained a positive feedback from the Assistant Secretary for Agribusiness, Engr. Leandro Gazmin. According to him, CARAT is one manifestation that agriculture, fishery and trade in Caraga is alive and ready to take on the challenges of globalization.

Establishment of Village Type Corn Postharvest Processing Center

To help corn farmers attain premium quality produce, the Department of Agriculture Caraga turned-over a Village Type Corn Postharvest Processing Center to the Local Government Unit of Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte last June 1, 2016.

The Village Type Corn Postharvest Processing Center situated in Brgy. Pinana-an, is a modern drying and shelling facility worth P3.5 million pesos and has an input capacity of 10 metric tons of corn on cobs.

Operationalization of APTC project

In partnership with the Local Government Unit of Surigao del Norte and Winrock International, the Department of Agriculture Caraga officially opened the 31M Agri-Pinoy Trading Center in Dapa, Siargao Island.

More than 400 farmers and 14 groups of fishers in 8 municipalities of the island would benefit from the project. Fruits, vegetables, root crops and fishery products can now be traded in the center.

The center is like a dream-come-true among the farmers and fishers. "God has granted us this dream, we can now see a standing establishment where we can display all our agricultural goods," said Governor Sol Matugas in her message during the launching ceremony. Governor Matugas encouraged the sellers of the center to plant and increase production so that the establishment will be filled with locally produced goods with high value and quality.



Civil Society Organizations Accredited with DSWD

As a way of empowering farmers to manage government funds and to hasten project implementation, the DA facilitated the accreditation of the Civil Society Organizations. There were three (3) Implementing CSOs and sixteen (16) Beneficiary CSOs that got accredited with DSWD; 10 RPC (Rice Processing Complex) Operators and FSP Providers; 1 FLGC, 2 MPDPs and 3 Barangay Food Terminal Operators per list below:

Accredited Implementing CSOs:

- Agusanon Para sa Bag-ong Pilipino, Inc. (*Agus-Pinoy*)
- Hiniusang Kooperatiba sa Esperanza-Esperanza Federation of Cooperatives (*HIKE-ESFECO*)
- Butuan Agusan Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative

Beneficiary CSOs:

- Lemon Farmers Association
- Hiniusang Kooperatiba sa Esperanza-Esperanza Federation of Cooperatives (*HIKE-ESFECO*)

Civil Society Organizations Accredited

- Pandanan Banlas Tabinay Bagunhian Farmers Association (*PABANTABA*)
- Hinagnuyan Irrigators Association, Inc.
- Tandag Agro-Fishery Marketing Cooperative (*TAFIMACO*)
- Bayugan Farmers Millers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (*BFMMPC*)
- Palasao Farmers Livestock & Poultry Raisers Association
- Gigaquit Municipal Officials and Employees Multi-Purpose Cooperative
- Dankias Farmers Association
- Agusanon Para sa Bag-ong Pilipino, Inc.
- First Trento Community Multi-Purpose Cooperative (*FITCOMPC*)
- Sto Nino Consumers Cooperative
- San Isidro Cosumers Cooperative
- Tupedo Irrigators Association
- Antongalon-Agusan Multi-Purpose Coop
- Kahugpongong sa mga Marihatagnon Alang sa Kauswagan Cooperative

#BROWN4good Challenge

The Department of Agriculture intensified its promotion throughout the country through a social media propaganda dubbed as the BROWN4good Challenge.

To strengthen the campaign, around 800 strong allies in Caraga Region were gathered during the regional launching of BROWN4good Campaign last September 7, 2016 held at Father Saturnino Urios University Gymnasium, Butuan City.

The activity was participated by the National Government Agencies, DA attached Agencies and Bureaus, Local Government Units, local media, brown rice producers, academe, students and DA Caraga employees.

Through the campaign, the following objectives were achieved:

- The promotion of understanding on the goodness of brown rice was clearly explained. The campaign also encouraged responsible rice consumption for consumers.
- The challenge was open to all and enlisted the participation of all sectors including those in public service, media, education and health, students and the farmers.
- Twenty-five sacks or 1250kg of brown rice were given to charities because of the participation of the advocates in Caraga. These five charities are:

#BROWN4good Challenge

- FSUU Foundation, Incorporated (which has a number of charitable works in the region including the feeding of street children)
- Por Cristo (Home for the Aged)
- Bahay Silonganan
- Home for Girls
- Gesu Eucaristico Children's, Inc. (Buenavista)

In support to the campaign, the Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council headed by the RAFC Chairman, Mr. Robert D. Enciso, actively endorsed a resolution and was successfully approved by Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol through a memorandum dated November 11, 2016 "Enjoining all Bureaus, Attached Agencies and Corporations and Regional Offices of the Department of Agriculture (DA) to serve brown rice together with white rice during trainings, meetings and feeding program and to continue the serving of corn grits, sweet potato and other food staples".

Accreditation of Plant and Nursery Operators

In our pursuit to have local source of quality planting materials, the Department facilitated the accreditation of four (4) Plant Nursery Operators in Caraga. The following are now accredited with the Bureau of Plant Industry and ready to supply quality planting materials:

- KENNEMER Food International Nursery at Rosario, Agusan del Sur (*Supplier of Cacao planting materials*);
- JML Nursery, Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte (*Supplier of Cacao Planting Materials*);
- KM. 7 Famers Producers Cooperative at Tungao, Butuan City (*Supplier of Rubber Planting Materials*);
- Cahayagan Coffee Farmers Inc. at Cahayagan, Tagbina, Surigao del Sur (*Supplier of Coffee Planting Materials*);

Awards and Achievements

RICE PROGRAM

Caraga Region bagged two major awards during the 2016 Rice Achievers Awarding Ceremony held at the Philippine International Convention Center on May 23, 2017.

The LGU of Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur, for the third time was adjudged as the Outstanding LGU in Caraga Region and received P1M cash award. The Hinapoyan Farmers' Cooperative in Carmen, Surigao del Sur was the Outstanding SWISA or Small Water Irrigators System Association (Mindanao Cluster), and got ₱500,000.00 cash prize.

The following were declared as the National Winners for 2016, ten (10) Outstanding Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) and three (3) Outstanding Local Farmer Technicians (LFTs) from the different municipalities in the region;

Outstanding AEWs

Nestor J. Fuentes	Butuan City, Agusan del Norte
Thelma A. Burgos	Butuan City, Agusan del Norte
Segundina O. Ayag	Butuan City, Agusan del Norte
Agnes C. Alcazar	Butuan City, Agusan del Norte
Basilisa C. Huera	Buenavista, Agusan del Norte
Concepcion P. Suma-oy	Buenavista, Agusan del Norte
Gertrulyn T. Natonton	Buenavista, Agusan del Norte
Cecilia G. Abdulmajid	Buenavista, Agusan del Norte
Marion G. Martin III	Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur
Victoria A. Roda	Jabonga, Agusan del Norte

RICE PROGRAM

Outstanding LFTs

Connie A. Erigan	Butuan City, Agusan del Norte
Josephine D. Alutaya	Bislig City, Surigao del Sur
Raul V. Cambarihan	Basilisa, Dinagat Island

Each of them received a cash prize of ₱20,000.00 and a plaque of appreciation.

The Rice Achievers Award (RAA) is a yearly activity spearheaded by the DA in partnership with ATI, BSWM, NIA ,and other agencies. This to give due recognition to LGUs that are top rice producers and Farmer Associations that are instrumental in producing rice to meet the food sufficiency requirement of the country.

CORN PROGRAM

DA-Caraga has been a consistent awardee of the National Quality Corn Achievers Award.

The Provincial Local Government Unit of Agusan del Norte was recognized as Hall of Famer being the Outstanding Province. Mr. Alvin P. Aclan and Mr. Oscar S. Tuyor were recognized as the sole Hall of Fame Awardees for Outstanding Provincial Agriculturist and Outstanding Provincial Corn Coordinator category respectively.

The municipality of Prosperidad in Agusan del Sur was declared as Outstanding Municipality. Achievers in their respective contribution were Marlita P. Cortez, Outstanding Municipal Agriculturist, Luzviminda U. Abellana, Outstanding Municipal Coordinator, and Nilo Y. Villamor, Outstanding Agricultural Extension Worker.

The awarding ceremony concluded the 12th Philippine National Corn Congress in conjunction with the 4th National Quality Corn Achievers Awards at Koronal City, South Cotabato on November 16-18, 2016.

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

The Department of Agriculture Caraga team won as the 1st Placer for the Dessert Category and 2nd Placer in the Main Dish Category during the National Organic Cooking Contest. This was conducted last November 23-25, 2016 during the National Organic Agriculture Congress (NOAC) in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte.

- Ms. Salvacion F. Reyes – Dessert Category, IP, Butuan City
- Mr. Jeremie Sual – Main Dish Category, Madrid, SDS

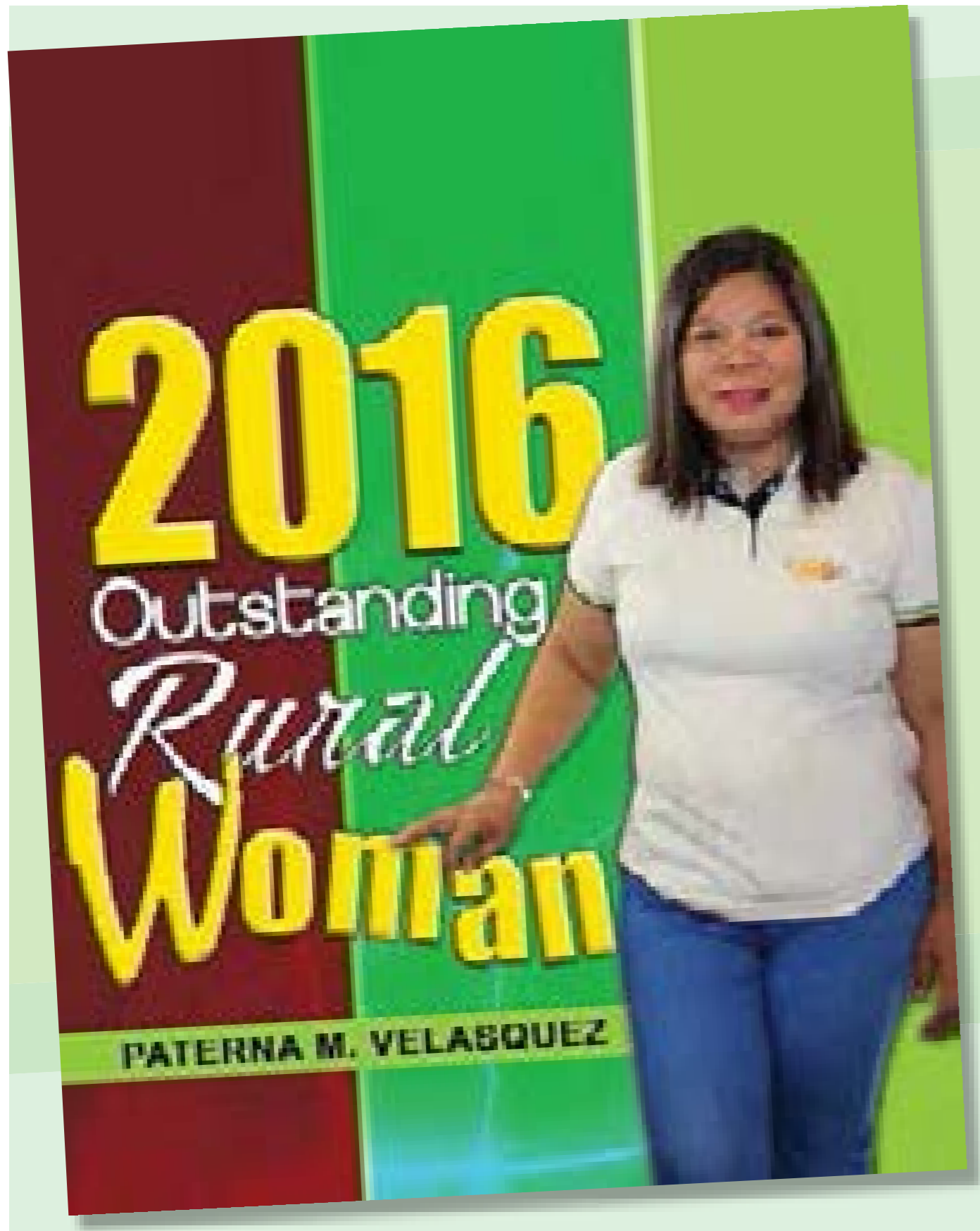
GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Caraga Region won the 5th Place during the CY 2016 Outstanding Rural Woman Awarding Ceremony held on December 8, 2016 at the LBP Plaza, Malate, Manila.

5th Runner-Up winner, Ms. Paterna Maputol Velasquez, of Bislig City, Surigao del Sur received a Plaque of Recognition and a cheque amounting to Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos (₱25,000.00) handed by DA-USEC. Bernadette Romulo Puyat, Philippine Commission for Women (PCW) National Director and LandBank representative.

Ms. Velasquez’s exemplary performance on managing a business and being an advocate for women empowerment made her way to the National Competition. Ms. Velasquez currently owned 5-hectare fish pond and 15-hectare integrated farm business comprised of coconut, cacao and fruit trees aside from her poultry and livestock production venture.

SUCCESS STORY



From a self-sustaining fish vendor to a fish broker in Bislig City, Paterna “Nene” Maputol Velasquez is now reaping the benefits of her hard work. At 54, Nang Nene successfully runs a 15 hectare farm and a 5 hectare fish pond at Bislig City.

“After graduating college, I did not apply for any job, I decided to continue what my parents have started as fish vendors. I have seen the difference of having a business rather than being employed. I prefer to manage my own business and prefer to manage my own time. There’s more income in business too,” she said.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Born from a father who is a fisherman, Nang Nene has been in fish vending by helping her parents. The family’s income enabled her to finish her education with a Bachelors Degree in Accountancy at University of Bohol, Tagbilaran City.

After college, she then decided to go back home and continue the business she had grown up. With her degree, it became an asset to know how to manage a business. With her managerial skills she was able to sustain her market stall at Mangagoy Public Market. She got married to Jerry Velasquez and was blessed with two lovely daughters.

As she tied the knot with Mang Jerry, she did not only continue her business but expanded her plans of having more projects with her husband. They decided to purchase a ¼ hectare fishpond to venture on bangus production.

Over the years, they were able to attend trainings and field expository tours with regard to Bangus production. With proper management on their business, the couple was blessed and was able to expand their operation to a 5 hectare fish pond.

At present, they are operating 12 fish cages. An average of 5 to 6 tons of bangus are harvested every month per cage. It has a market value of ₱102,511 / kilo and was sold to their identified buyers within the city.

SUSTAINABLE FARMING

Nang Nene also sees the risk on her business venture especially when typhoon comes. In her 9 years of doing the business, they have encountered Sendong and Pablo. The aftermath of the typhoons destroyed their fish ponds and fish cages which resulted to a failure of operation.

But with her strong personality, Nang Nene managed to take the loss. She survived the failure and gained more self-confidence to stand again.

“My husband at that time said that we should stop doing our business. But I told him that we should continue because this is our only means of income. I was also thinking on our employees who have also their own families to feed. If we stop our business, they will also lose their jobs. I thought otherwise that we cannot get back the losses if we stop our operation so I decided to continue,” she said.

Experiences are best teachers. This is true for Nang Nene. She had seen the ill-effects of climate change in her aqua-marine ventures thus, encouraged her to engaged in integrated farming.

Adjacent to her 5 hectare fish pond is a 15 hectare integrated farm. In 2013, she started her agribusiness venture. Today she has 1,500 hills of coconut, 3,000 hills of cacao and 120 hills of fruit trees. She also engages in poultry and livestock farming.

The trainings and seminars she attended, paved the way for Nang Nene to venture on agribusiness enterprise. Receptive to new technologies, she is also an organic practitioner and advocate of organic farming.

“I found out that we must not only depend on fishing that is why we started to till our farm to make our livelihood sustainable and productive. If we work hard, we reap the fruits of our sacrifices,” Nang Nene said.

EXTRA CO-ACTIVITIES

Aside from being a mother of two and a farmer, Nang Nene is also the Chairperson of Mangagoy Fishermen’s Cooperative (MAFISCO). Her 14 years of honesty and integrity in service contributed to the success and achievement of the cooperative.

She also campaigns for women empowerment and gender equality through leadership and livelihood program for women. Nang Nene is also an active parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in their barangay.

From the success she achieved, her humility still prevails. She always reminds her daughters to be humble and teaches them how to share their blessings to others.

This is how Paterna Maputol-Velasquez became an outstanding and exceptional rural woman in Caraga.

MFO 2.0

Technical and Support Services

 **2.1 Production Support Services**

 **2.2 Market Development Services**

 **2.3 Extension Support Education and Training Services**

 **2.4 Research and Development**

MFO 2.1
Production Support Services

RICE PROGRAM

Caraga Region's palay production in 2016 declined by 3.97 percent with 462,182 metric tons compared to the production output in the previous year 2015 which totaled to 481,312 metric tons. However, the decline is much lower compared to the set back of negative 19.36 percent from 2014 with that in the 2015 production.

All provinces posted lower outputs for the year except for Agusan del Norte which has a positive increase in production of 14.6 percent. The increase of production and area harvested in the province resulted to an increase of their yield of 3.39 compared to previous year of 3.26. The province of Surigao del Norte got the highest set back of 18.11 percent followed by Surigao del Sur by negative 7.57 percent, Agusan del Sur of negative 4.75 percent, and Province of Dinagat Islands of negative 3.85 percent.

Area harvested and yield per hectare in Caraga also declined by negative 3.26 and negative 0.74 percent respectively.

The decrease in production of the four provinces was due to the effect of the El Niño Phenomenon in 2016. Also, damaged irrigation facilities largely affected the irrigated palay production areas particularly in Bayugan and Esperanza, Agusan del Sur. The Andanan Irrigation Facility which was damaged last January 2015 by Typhoon Agaton is still under repair.

The region contributed 2.62 percent or 462,182 metric tons to the country's total rice production from its target of 679,068 metric tons in 2016.

In line with the Department's goals and objectives, the Rice Program aimed to increase the yield of the rice farmers by providing production support, primarily seeds and fertilizers.

From the total allocation of Php 67 million for production support and services, the program had delivered and distributed a total of 372,520 kg of high quality seeds (HQS) benefitting around 6,400 rice farmers.

A total of 110 rice farmer associations benefitted from the provision and utilization of high quality hybrid and inbred seeds. This was coupled with some other yield enhancing inputs.

Each association availed package of interventions that includes hybrid/certified seeds, inorganic fertilizer, zinc sulphate, and various chemical for pest and disease control measures.

Under Production Support for Technology Adoption for HYTA, a total of 88,600 kgs rice

seeds, 370,000 kgs of inorganic fertilizer, 3,400 kgs of zinc sulphate, 3000 liters of fungicide/bactericide, and 500 kilograms of rodenticides were distributed this year.

To ensure food sufficiency and as pro-active response to calamities that adversely affect rice production, a buffer stock of 360,526 kg of certified, registered and green super rice seeds were maintained at Taguibo and PhilRice warehouses. At least 50% of the buffer stocks were distributed to El Niño and La Niña affected rice farmers.

On top of the annual target, the program was able to procure additional production support from its procurement generated savings of about 11 million pesos. A total of 91,500 kg of hybrid and certified seeds, 200,000 kg inorganic fertilizer, 1000 liters fungicide/bactericide, and 1000 liters of chemical sticker or emulsifier will be distributed to farmers for the early cropping next year.

Palay Production, Caraga Region, 2014 - 2016

Province	2014			2015			2016			Percent increase/ decrease (2015 - 2016)		
	Pro-duction (mt)	Area Har-vested (ha)	Yield (mt/ha)	Produc-tion (mt)	Area Harvested (ha)	Yield (mt/ha)	Pro-duction (mt)	Area Harvest-ed (ha)	Yield (mt/ha)	Pro-duction (mt)	Area har-vested (ha)	Yield (mt/ha)
Agusan del Norte	99,786	27,469	3.63	76,191	23,363.95	3.26	87,312	25,768	3.39	14.60	10.29	3.99
Agusan del Sur	292,019	87,973	3.32	233,526	75,430	3.10	222,420	72,291	3.08	- 4.76	- 4.16	- 0.65
Dinagat Islands	6,507	2,934	2.22	6,136	2,846	2.16	5,900	2,799	2.11	- 3.85	- 1.65	- 2.31
Surigao del Norte	63,694	22,093	2.88	60,575.5	20,642	2.93	49,608	18,869	2.63	- 18.11	- 8.59	- 10.24
Surigao del Sur	112,493	33,701	3.34	104,883.0	32,848	3.19	96,942	30,349	3.19	- 7.57	- 7.61	-
CARAGA	574,499	174,170	3.30	481,311.5	155,129.95	3.10	462,182	150,076	3.08	- 3.97	- 3.26	- 0.65

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

CORN PROGRAM

Corn production posted a positive increase of 21.68 percent or an equivalent of 25,754 metric tons in 2016 as well as an increase in area harvested and yield by 5.45 percent and 15.36 percent respectively.

Province of Dinagat Islands has the highest increase in production by 76.23 percent followed by the Province of Agusan del Norte (51.84%), Surigao del Sur (25.49%), and Agusan del Sur (16.8 %).

The positive performance of corn was attributed to the increase in yield and area harvested. Farmers opted to plant corn instead of rice in anticipation of the El Niño which favors corn production under Caraga condition. Appropriate

farming technologies, facilities and machineries that were established for the commodity has contributed to the positive performance.

Among the provinces, only the Province of Surigao del Norte experienced a decline in production by negative 29.07 percent due to the decrease in area harvested of 173 hectares. This was due to the marketing problem experienced by the farmers.

Caraga Region contributed 2.0 percent or 144,528 metric tons to the country's total corn production which resulted to 115 percent accomplishment from its target of 124,684 metric tons in 2016.

Interventions in this component are geared towards cost-reducing technologies for global competitiveness and productivity. The program has distributed 4,311 bags (20 kg per bag) of registered open-pollinated variety (OPV) corn seeds under Seed Exchange and Buffer Stocking Program. This is to support corn farmers and ensure the steady supply of white corn grains as staple food and provide seed assistance for corn rehabilitation during calamity.

Indigenous farmers especially those in conflict-stricken areas have planted cassava as staple. A total of 221,000 high yielding cassava seed pieces produced from the three Research and Experiment Stations were distributed.

A total of 670 farmers were assisted to enrich soil fertility and improve their productivity through the Organic - Based Agriculture Program for Soil

Fertility Mapping and Sampling conducted by the Regional Soil Testing Laboratory (RSTL).

Under the Biological Control program, corn farmers utilized Trichogramma cards and earwigs to control corn borers. Pest and Disease Surveillance operations had been conducted, in collaboration with Department of Agriculture-Caraga, Local Government Units (LGUs) and farmers group.

On the other hand, the aflatoxin content of corn indicated an increase of 2% from 95.5% passing rate in 2015 to 97.5% passing rate in 2016 from the 120 samples analyzed under the Aflatoxin Prevention Program conducted by Regional Feed Chemical Analysis Laboratory (RFCAL). The monitoring of the aflatoxin content has led to ensure that corn produced in Caraga are safe for human and animal consumption.

Corn Production, Caraga Region, 2014 - 2016

Province	2014			2015			2016			Percent increase/ decrease (2015- 2016)		
	Pro-duction (mt)	Area Harvest-ed (ha)	Yield (mt/ha)	Pro-duction (mt)	Area Harvest-ed (ha)	Yield (mt/ha)	Produc-tion (mt)	Area Harvest-ed (ha)	Yield (mt/ha)	Pro-duction (mt)	Area Har-vested (ha)	Yield (mt/ha)
Agusan del Norte	15,153	6,078	2.49	16,370	5,768	2.84	24,856	7,196	3.45	51.84	24.76	21.48
Agusan del Sur	97,864	29,674	3.30	93,791	31,055	3.02	109,559	31,856	3.44	16.81	2.58	13.91
Dinagat Islands	63	35	1.80	122	80	1.53	215	115	1.87	76.23	43.75	22.22
Surigao del Norte	1,558	798	1.95	1,386	768	1.80	983	595	1.65	- 29.08	- 22.53	- 8.33
Surigao del Sur	10,768	5,372	2.0	7,105	4,725	1.50	8,915.86	4,943	1.80	25.49	4.61	20.00
CARAGA	125,406	41,957.00	2.99	118,774	42,396.00	2.80	144,528.90	44,705.00	3.23	21.68	5.45	15.36

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Soil Fertility Mapping and Sampling conducted by the Regional Soil Testing Laboratory (RSTL)

HVCD PROGRAM

Other major crops such as abaca, rubber, banana, cacao, coffee, oil palm, sweet potato, ampalaya, eggplant, squash, and okra have increased in production attributed to the increase in area planted. On the other hand, mango, coconut, and cassava production declined. The decline in production for mango was due to the El Niño Phenomenon while the production decline for cassava was due to witches broom disease which struck Caraga Region.

High Value Crops Production, Caraga Region, 2014 - 2016

Province	2014			2015			2016P		
	Production (mt)	Area Harvested (ha)	Yield (mt/ha)	Production (mt)	Area Harvested (ha)	Yield (mt/ha)	Production (mt)	Area Harvested (ha)	Yield (mt/ha)
Rubber (cup lump)	10,509.08	11,837.00	3.58	12,006.01	12,450.00	4.08	12,845.24	12,519.00	4.35
Coffee (dried berries)	1,405.53	4,397.25	0.41	1,645.95	4,417.25	0.48	1,833.92	4,485.75	0.53
Cacao	59.40	701.00	0.28	60.31	735.00	0.29	65.31	741.00	0.30
Banana	243,791.92	23,105.95	22.45	259,737.68	23,109.37	23.75	278,014.99	23,415.25	25.12
Mango	15,699.81	2,623.00	77.18	17,227.73	2,628.00	84.71	17,120.68	2,625.30	83.87
Cassava	17,180.75	2,740.00	6.27	18,201.31	2,722.24	6.69	3,578.52	2,660.03	9.29
Sweet Potato/ Camote	32,055.93	4,746.00	6.25	30,148.46	4,762.00	6.33	33,283.70	4,872.93	6.83
Ampalaya	865.99	136.70	6.33	885.10	147.17	6.01	1,026.72	166.02	6.18
Eggplant	3,945.63	560.05	7.05	3,970.18	574.37	6.91	5,984.62	734.25	8.15
Squash fruit	3,233.22	187.29	17.26	3,202.44	184.41	17.37	4,346.63	261.02	16.65
Okra	577.7	102.25	5.65	628.83	115.62	5.44	612.69	113.05	5.42
Mongo	182.32	206.94	1.37	239.46	219.15	1.48	241.41	236.24	1.49

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

The Program distributed various seeds and planting materials to 360 group beneficiaries to ensure quality produce.

Assorted vegetable seeds were distributed to increase the production of local producers. A total of 6,563 kg mungbean, 7,350 kg peanut, five (5) kg hot pepper, 6,000 kg ginger, 4,525 pcs malunggay cuttings, 350 kg lowland, and 110 kg upland vegetables seeds were also distributed region wide. Meanwhile, the Research and Experiment Stations (RES) under the Research Division have also produced 396 kg lowland seeds for buffer stocking.

The Program also distributed various planting materials for productivity enhancement and promotion of local fruit commodities. These include 50,000 pcs banana-lakatan, 50,577 pcs pineapple suckers, 67,370 pcs lanzones, 65,970

pcs rambutan, and 44,200 pcs mangosteen planting materials.

Quality planting materials were distributed to improve farm productivity and support the area expansion of industrial crops. A total of 232,151 pcs coffee, 171,841 pcs cacao, and 310,300 pcs rubber were distributed region wide.

A total of 150,000 sweet potato cuttings and 10,000 pcs saba-banana plantlets were distributed to promote/increase production of alternative staple food crops.

In support to mango off-season production, a total of 500 bags flower inducers were distributed to 12 farmer group beneficiaries in the provinces of Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Norte and Dinagat Islands.

LIVESTOCK PROGRAM

Livestock volume of production increased by 6.74 percent or 3,008 metric tons in 2016 with hog posted a significant increase of 2,799 metric tons followed by cattle of 256 metric tons and goat of six(6) metric tons. Only carabao experienced a decrease in production of 53 metric tons in 2016 aside from the recorded decrease from 2014 to 2015 of 234 metric tons.

Also, poultry volume of production increased by 2.29 percent or 435 metric tons with chicken of 610 metric tons and duck of 13 metric tons positive growth. Despite the increase, egg production of chicken and duck decreased by 57 and 131 metric tons respectively.

Livestock and Poultry Volume of Production by Geolocation, Animal Type, Period and Year

Animal Type	2014 (mt)	2015 (mt)	2016 (mt)	Increase/ decrease (2015-2016)
Carabao	2,911	2,677	2,624	-53
Cattle	1,541	1,421	1,677	256
Hog	39,825	39,589	42,388	2,799
Goat	919	930	936	6
Chicken	13,164	13,254	13,864	610
Duck	174	171	184	13
Chicken eggs	4,052	4,815	4,758	-57
Duck eggs	831	727	596	-131

Source: Q4-2016, Preliminary Data

Animal Genetic Improvement Program

To demand better market price of animals, the Livestock Program continues its effort in improving the bloodline of carabao, cow and goat through Artificial Insemination (AI).

A total of 2,270 animals were inseminated and about 2,051 farmers were served.

The Program has distributed 4540 frozen semen straws and 895 liters of liquid nitrogen in Butuan City and four Provincial Veterinary Offices in the region.

At least 1740 carabao, 520 cattle and 10 goats were inseminated for upgrading of stock to superior breeds.

The livestock technicians were also enhanced of their AI capability. They were trained in a 28-day

Basic AI and Pregnancy Diagnosis training in Malaybalay Stock Farm, Malaybalay, Bukidnon last October 19 to November 17, 2016. This was in coordination with Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), National Artificial Breeding Center (NABC) and DA Region 10.

The program has provided them with AI supplies and materials. Gloves, straw sheaths, luteinizing hormones, dewormer, and liquid nitrogen are among the support given to AI Technicians to effectively carry out their tasks.

To recognize the efforts of our expert AI Technicians, Mr. Carlos K. Nabio of Butuan City Veterinary Office bagged the award as Best Performing AI Technician among 42 Technicians in the region.

Animal Health Program

The program has provided animal drugs and biologics in support to LGUs' program on the prevention of animal disease occurrence.

A total of 169,942 doses of drugs and biologics were distributed to all 74 Local Government Units including five Provincial Veterinary Offices in the region. These include antibiotics, anti-inflammatory, anti-protozoans/trypanocide, anesthetics, dewormers, supplements and vaccines for Hog Cholera, Hemorrhagic Septicemia, New Castle's Disease and fowl pox.

Philippine Native Animal Development (PNAD)

Nowadays, consumers are buying more indigenous or local food products, despite the high prices. The new attitude: Health is wealth prompted the Department to promote PNAD. It was realized that the native animals of the Philippines are exactly what we need to produce and reproduce to meet the high demands for consumption, as well as the need for conservation of species.

In line with the continued effort and an urgent need to conserve the native animals before they

disappear in favor of the imported ones, Del Monte conservation farm was established to provide favorable and sustainable environment of Patani chicken.

Alongside with conservation, phenotypic characterization study of Patani chicken is also done. A total of 154 heads off-type Patani were distributed to LGU San Agustin, Surigao del Sur, three individual beneficiaries and two indigenous people groups to support the establishment and production of native chicken at municipal and farmer level.

Apiculture Development Program

In agriculture, bees are considered the most important and ideal pollinators. It is the glue that holds our agricultural systems together.

For more than a decade, honey bee productions are declining massively. With the effort to save the industry, the Program established honeybee colonies in three Research Experiment Station

at Del Monte, Talacogon and Trento, Agusan del Sur and Tagbina, Surigao del Sur to showcase the bee production technology. A "Trainors Training on Basic Bee keeping" was conducted and attended by Provincial and Municipal Apiary Coordinators in the region.

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

A total of 8,368.57 ha are converted to organic farm this year. This accounts to 170 percent increase in areas practicing organic compared to its target.

The astounding accomplishment is contributed by the program's various services. The production support services were distributed specifically in areas declared as organic zones which constitute to the five (5) percent committed for the organic agriculture area.

To boost the production of organic products, the program provides various support which enables our farmers in practicing organic agriculture.

The program has distributed the following seeds: registered and colored rice seeds (16,000kg), open pollinated variety (OPV) corn (3,000kg) and OPV vegetable (50kg).

Farming inputs like fertilizers, molasses (1,200 liters each) and african night crawler (100kg)

were also distributed to organic farming practitioners.

Farmers are producing fertilizer themselves to reduce its production cost at the same time using environmental-friendly fertilizer such vermicompost, vermicast, vermitea and concoctions (NFTS). Thus, organic farmers are already selling their produce to other farmers and became additional sources of their income

VARIOUS PRODUCTION SUPPORT SERVICES

DA-Caraga’s Research Stations have been the reliable source of quality planting materials, breeder stocks (poultry and livestock), and other production-related support services of our local farmers. This is an on-going effort of the Department to promote agricultural development, generate work opportunities, and improve farm income of our farmers.

Despite of the mild drought experienced in Caraga during the first semester of 2016, the stations were able to distribute a total of 114,052 pieces of various planting materials. This composed of 76,357 forage crops, 35,130 cassava and camote cuttings, 1,385 assorted fruit trees, and 1,180 rubber planting material serving 57 farmer-groups and 218 individual farmer-beneficiaries across the region. In addition, 10 farmer-groups and 43 individual farmers were provided with 28,169 kilograms of organic fertilizers in support to the promotion and adoption of organic farming practices among small farmers.

As the Department encourages diversified farming to ensure optimum farm output and income, livestock and poultry breeder stocks were also offered by the stations. Specifically, 967 heads of ducks, 88 heads of chicken, 17 heads of sheep, 20 heads of goat, and 6 heads of swine were distributed.

The three Research Stations also provided technical assistance to the farmers through training and briefing. This is to ensure that recommended technology and practices are adopted.

MFO 2.2

Market Development Services

This years’ highlight of accomplishments for the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) focused on market promotions and linkages. These were done through various market related activities conducted, facilitated and funded which benefited 838 individuals and 20 groups/associations.

The AMAD had supported the staging of the first Caraga Agricultural Trade and Marketing Exposition (CARAT) 2016 which showcased various agri-aqua products of the local farmers and entrepreneurs in the region. The event had generated a total sales of more than a million pesos (₱1,800,000.00). For the DA-Caraga exhibitors, a total sales close to half million pesos (₱ 476,559.00) was posted which made them the top grosser among the participating agencies.

Another significant activity was the “Tabo sa DA” which was done every quencena and started in July. This created linkage between rice producers, the Sto. Niño Multi-Purpose Cooperative and small farmer producers with some buyers from private and government offices including DA employees in Butuan City.

This also provided small farmers a direct market for their produce without spending too much on transportation cost and market stall fee. Total sales generated amounted to ₱127, 780.00 in just six months.

Through market matching activities, AMAD facilitated 37 Marketing Agreements consummated between local farmer-processors and buyers for cassava. Total volume traded reached to 24 MT with a total value of ₱68,650.00.

For rice, three Marketing Agreements were consummated between Sto. Nino MPC and 3 successful Municipal Food Terminals in the region namely; Mangagoy Fishermen Multi-Purpose Cooperative, San Roque Displaced Workers Multi-Purpose Cooperative. Total volume traded was 113 MT with a total value of Php 4.3 million.

Another renewal of Marketing Agreement for milled rice was also facilitated and signed. A total of 49 MT of rice is expected to be delivered monthly from January 2017 to July 2017.

Table 1. List of Cooperatives/Associations with Marketing Agreements Consummated

Commodity	Volume (MT)	Value (₱)	Name of Producer/Supplier	Name of Buyer
Rice	20	767,802.00	Sto. Niño Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Butuan City	San Roque Farmers & Displaced Workers Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur
Rice	89	3,400,000.00	Sto. Niño Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Butuan City	Mangagoy Fishermen Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur
Rice	2	76,780.00	Sto. Niño Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Butuan City	Sto. Niño Consumers Cooperative, Magallanes, Agusan del Norte
Rice	2	76,780.00	Sto. Niño Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Butuan City	Taguibo Irrigators Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Taguibo, Butuan City
Cassava	24	68,650.00	Cassava Farmers in Cabadbaran City, Buenavista and Butuan City	Emano Cassava Chips Buying Station
Total	137	4,390,012		

A total sales of ₱145,853.00 was generated during the conduct and participation to international and local trade fairs and exhibits. Participation to international trade fairs includes 3rd BIMP-EAGA & IMT-GT Trade Expo Conference and Business Matching and Sabah International Exposition. Four farmer-processors have benefited the said events. The conduct of these trade fairs paved a great way to exhibit and advertise the agricultural products in Caraga to target market or consumers at the same time for brand awareness specially for the processed/ packaged agricultural products. This provides the farmers with a platform to promote and showcase their agricultural products to a broader/large group that may have little or no knowledge of their products.

In support to LGU activities, AMAD funded six trade fairs and exhibits and gained positive feedback both from exhibitors and participating LGUs. Sales generated amounted to 1 million pesos.

The launching and operationalization of the Siargao Island Agri-Pinoy Trading Center (SIAPTC) develops an efficient channel of quality, safe and affordable marine and agricultural product.

Almost 50 farmers and fisherfolk in the eight municipalities of Siargao benefited the Center as it served as the direct market of their produce.

To promote local and international investments, Fora on Coffee and Cacao were conducted. These resulted in the creation of the Caraga Cacao Industry Council as well as opened an avenue for investment on Cacao Project by the OFW Para sa Magsasaka (OPM).

The latter will finance the inputs of Cacao production of Magkiangkang Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MAMPC), being the identified organization while the former will set the directions for Cacao Industry in the region and serve as consolidator of cacao products.

Moreover, farmers who participated and benefited with the various trainings and capability building activities were also positive and hopeful and sought for more information that would help them in their agri-preneurial endeavors.

Price Monitoring on agriculture and fishery commodities at selected public markets was conducted regularly. This is to provide an up-to-date market price information to farmers.

MFO 2.3

Extension Support Education and Training Services

RICE PROGRAM

The Food Staple Sufficiency Program aims to strengthen the delivery of extension services to rice farmers.

To complement the limited number of LGU-based agricultural extension technicians, the program designated and deployed 112 Local Farmer Technicians (LFTs) on selected municipalities in the region. The LFTs helped in the establishment of 30 Farmer Field School and 17 Technology Demonstration sites in irrigated, rainfed and upland area to showcase modern rice production and post-production technologies. Through this program, 750 farmer-students were able to graduate and an addition to current number of practioners of Modern Technologies in their own farm.

CORN PROGRAM

The Corn Program conducted 96 technical trainings to improve the capacity of farmers and Agricultural Extension Workers in corn and cassava production, making them more productive and efficient. The following trainings were conducted in coordination with the LGUs:

- 30 Corn and Cassava Technology Demonstration
- 30 Farmers' Field School
- One Entrepreneurial training spearheaded by Marketing Assistance Division (MAD)
- 6 Post Harvest Technology Promotion, Extension and Trainings
- 10 Corn Training and Technical Briefings
- 15 Cassava Trainings and Meetings
- Four Cassava Livelihood Trainings.

A group of RIC members in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur are now engaged in small scale entrepreneurship. Their business involved the processing of cassava to augment their family income. This is the outcome of Cassava Livelihood Skills Training conducted last June of 2016.

On the other hand, 30 corn farmers in Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur have attended the training on GAP last July 28-29, 2016 that equipped them to face challenges of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

A total of 20 sites of Cassava Technology Demonstration and 10 sites of Corn Technology Demonstration were established showcasing nutrient management. The demo is a comparison of Farmers' Practice versus the scientific method of fertilizer application.

HVCD PROGRAM

There were 14 trainings conducted to support the priority commodities in the region. A total of 116 extension personnel and 351 farmers were trained/capacitated to improve productivity.

Trainings on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) were conducted to update the farmers with new production technologies in coordination with the Regulatory Division and partner LGUs. It emphasized the four (4) pillars of GAP on (a) food safety, (b) product quality, (c) environmental management, (d) worker's health, safety, and welfare. This is to boost the competitiveness of

our local producers in the international market particularly in the ASEAN Economic Community.

Moreover, rubber industry in Caraga is identified a promising industry but small rubber farmers need to improve on the quality of product in compliance to standards. This way, they are able to command a good price and secure the market.

Thus, the Program spearheaded the conduct of series of trainings on Tapping Management to address the problems confronting the industry. The activity also aims to improve the skills of

Mid-year Review and Assessment cum Retooling for Agriculture Extension Workers last October 5-7, 2016 at Amontay Beach Resort, Nasipit, Agusan del Norte.

rubber tappers and handlers and ensure good quality latex.

The Program conducted its Mid-year Review and Assessment cum Retooling for Agriculture Extension Workers last October 5-7, 2016 at Amontay Beach Resort, Nasipit, Agusan del Norte. The activity was to come-up with the following output: CY 2014-2015 HVCDP Status Report for Continuing Projects, CY 2016 HVCDP Accomplishment Report, and Finalization of CY

2017 HVCDP Interventions by province and municipality.

Furthermore, the Program provided incentives to 120 AEWs to defray expenses in performing their extension functions. Further, this will motivate LGU technicians in the prompt submission of production data, masterlist, farmer's profile and other reports needed by the Program.

LIVESTOCK PROGRAM

A total of 27 Extension personnel were trained to equip them in carrying out service delivery and program implementation at their respective municipalities. Trainings include Farmer Livestock School on Goat Enterprise Management (FLSGEM), Advance Meat Processing, Goat Production and Management Seminar, Dairy Goat Raising and Goat soap making training. The said trainings were also attended by 87 farmers.

To foster happy and motivated technicians, the Program has consistently provided monthly incentive to 194 Livestock Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) in the region.

Livestock & Poultry Information And Early Warning System

The Livestock and Poultry Information and Early Warning System (LPI- EWS) publication was released every semester. This addressed the concerns on concrete and reliable data on the situation and outlook of supply and demand of broiler meat and pork in the region. This is in collaboration with Philippine Statistic Authority, National Meat Inspection, Bureau of Animal Industry, Provincial and City Veterinary Office.

Significant contribution as a result of the project includes;

1. Enhances data sharing among DA agencies and LGUs
 - Pool of data sources and evaluators/ validators was established. Their appreciation and capability on data analysis were strengthened because of series of trainings and seminars conducted;
 - Member agencies learned to embrace the principle of data sharing rather than keeping the data just for their own use;
 - Enhanced the completeness of administrative-based statistics/ information, and;
 - Provided an avenue for the concerned Regional Offices and LGUs to appreciate the importance of intensifying the surveillance and recording of data borne out of their function and compile them in formats for statistical/ industry analysis
2. Data collection strategies of important indicators (data gaps) are being shared between and among stakeholders:
 - Orientation seminars with private agribusiness sector paved the way for establishing partnership with them, considering that they are data providers and validators, and;
 - Regional Offices require Provincial Veterinary reports on animal outflow and inflow and slaughter in addition to disease surveillance.
3. Serves as indicator in strengthening the Livestock and Poultry sector in the region.

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Organic farming practitioners were empowered through attendance to trainings and other capability building interventions. The said activities encouraged the farmers to enlist in the organic 3rd party certification.

Information and Education Campaign (IEC) materials were disseminated to raise awareness among farming community. The program through the information section produced 2,500 copies of IEC's. Success stories in Bislig City

and the Province of Surigao del Sur were also documented to encourage adaptability of other farmers.

In celebration of the 2nd OA Month, the program also conducted its Regional Organic Agriculture Congress (ROAC) last November 10-11, 2016 at Dotties Place, Butuan City. The congress aimed to gather Caraganon organic practitioner and share their success stories and best practices worthy of replicating.

During the 8th Agricultural Extension Workers (AEW) Congress last October 26- 28, 2016 at Almont Resort, Butuan City, the DA- Caraga recognized regional awardees for their valuable contribution to the successful implementation of the program. Regional awardees were: MLGU-San Francisco, ADS (Municipal Category); Foundation for the Development of Agusanons Inc. in Prosperidad, ADS (Group Category); and Cabatana's Family in Talacogon, Agusan del Sur (Family-Farming Category).

Last November 23-25, 2016, the DA-Caraga OAP team sent fifty (50) delegates to the National Organic Agriculture Congress (NOAC) in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte. Farmers, Indigenous People, students and DA staff participated in the congress.

This has taught them innovations and awareness of the program's current issues and concerns.



INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATION

The Information Section, being the information arm of the Department, continued to reach out to the people through various communication channels.

Recognizing the effectiveness of interpersonal communication in conveying the advocacies, programs, and services of the Department, information caravans were conducted. The caravan was conducted in Esperanza and Veruela, Agusan del Sur, and San Miguel and Barobo, Surigao del Sur. Farmers saw the benefits of GAP and were encouraged to adopt the system.

Presently, there is a rise in the global demand for food safety and quality. Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) is also a step towards making locally grown products competitive in the global market especially with the onset of the ASEAN Economic Community Integration, thus, the need

for a massive information awareness campaign on GAP.

On the other hand, DA also reached out to Mamanwas, Higaonon, and Manobos through an information caravan on DA Programs and Services. Most of the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) depend on traditional agriculture utilizing available upland areas. The activity paved the way for them to access DA's programs and services.

Meanwhile, the infestation of the Brown Plant Hopper (BPH) in some municipalities in Surigao del Sur raised concerns among agricultural stakeholders which prompted the info caravan on BPH and other pests and diseases. The Info Section partnered with the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Coordinators and DA technical personnel in disseminating information on pest management.

Over the years, radio has remained an effective tool in promoting agricultural development. Several DA funded radio programs are aired region-wide and gained listenership even from far-flung areas.

To enhance DA farmcasters and LGU counterparts, the Information Section conducted a training on broadcasting for the Information Network composed of Provincial/City and DA attached agencies' information officers. The training equipped them with learnings for an improved and more effective radio program.

Impacts of projects were captured through testimonies of project recipients and disseminated through TV and radio to gain support and appreciation as part of the media and public relations activities. The testimonial type of advertisement made a bigger impact since it is a

personal account of their experience.

With the evolution of technology, social media was also tapped to intensify the advocacy campaigns of the Department. The DA-Caraga Facebook page has now the following crowd of 4,300 in 2 years time. This promotes transparency among agri-stakeholders and serves as an avenue for feedback and queries.

On the other hand, Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials have consistently been in demand by the clients. Various leaflets and brochures regarding banner programs were produced and distributed to farmers and LGUs.

With appropriate information and communication, the road for agricultural sustainability and development is not far-fetched.

MFO 2.4
Research and Development

The Research Division leads regional efforts in the conduct of research and development (R&D) undertakings geared towards overcoming climate change challenges, soil fertility issues, emerging and recurring pest and diseases problems, and other agriculture-related concerns aimed at improving the lives of our resource-poor farmers from various commodities such rice, corn and cassava, livestock, high-value crops, and other commodity groups.

This year, 54 researches funded by the different Banner Programs including BAR-funded projects were implemented in multiple locations involving Research Stations, State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and Local Government Units (LGUs) in partnership with the national and international agencies. If not for the continued support of the funding agencies and banner programs, active collaboration of the stakeholders, and deep commitment of our farmer partners, success of R&D projects implementation will not be possible.

Given the existing pool of talents and new breed of researchers, the Division is optimistic that in the next few years, the DA-Caraga will be able to develop and promote package of technologies (POTs) that are practical, efficient, adoptable, and sustainable.

RICE PROGRAM

Cognizant of the fact that the food staple sufficiency goal remains elusive, the DA-Caraga continues to identify, evaluate, refine, and facilitate delivery of improved rice technologies that are climate-smart, resource-use efficient, and farmer-friendly.

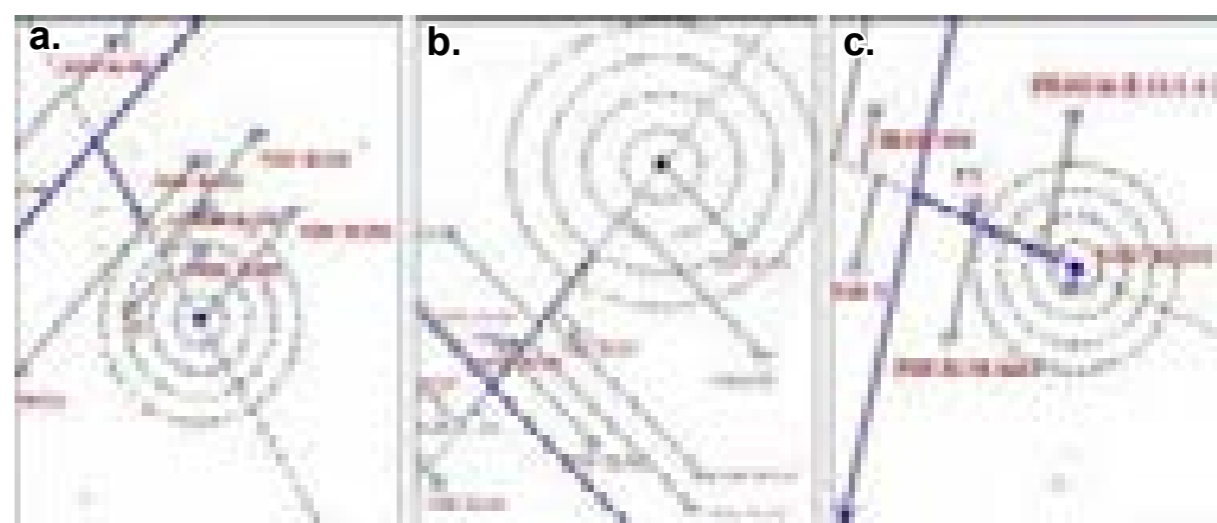
For years, the DA and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) partnership has been successful in implementing various research, development, and extension-related undertakings. With the advent of Participatory Varietal Selection (PVS) under the Next-Gen rice project, deployment of Rice Crop Manager (RCM), and launching of Philippine Rice Information System (PRISM), delivery and adoption of recommended farming practices and high-yielding varieties with built-in tolerance/resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses were being accelerated.

With these technological advancements in rice R&D, policy-makers were guided in making decisions concerning priority programs and strategies in achieving the crucial food staple sufficiency goal.

Accelerating the Adoption of Next - Generation Rice Varieties for the Major Ecosystems in Caraga Region. This project is a collaborative effort among the country's breeding institutions (IRRI, PhilRice, UPLB and private seed companies) in generating many varieties for the various ecosystems. For 2016 PVS trial, the following varieties were identified as the top recommended varieties in terms of yield, agronomic traits, and eating quality:

Ecosystem	Top Performing Variety	Average Yield (t/ha)
Saline prone	NSIC Rc330	3.83
Submergence prone	NSIC Rc222	6.4
Drought prone	NSIC Rc280	5.67
Irrigated lowland for inbred	NSIC Rc354	4.7
Irrigated lowland for hybrid	NSIC Rc132H	9.5

Preferential analysis and sensory evaluation activity with the local farmers.



Top performing Next-Gen rice varieties in different ecosystem across seasons and sites: a) irrigated-lowland b) saline-prone c) submergence-prone ecosystem. The small marked circle represents the average environment defined by the intercept of Principal Component (PC)-PC1 and PC2 scores of the environment. The line that passes through the biplot origin and the average environment with single arrow is the Average Environment Axis (AEA). Parallel projections of variety markers to the average environment axis show the mean yield of varieties. Thus, varieties are ranked along the ordinate and most ideal varieties are those located within the circle.

- **Rice Crop Manager: A Comprehensive Decision Support Tool for Increasing Yield and Income of Farmers in the Philippines.** While NextGen project aims to ensure quick delivery of improved rice genetics in the farmer's field, the RCM on the other end intends to provide a timely and regular crop and nutrient management guideline specific to farmers' individual needs. For this year, the project already provided 6,596 farming recommendations to 4,796 farmer recipients covering 7,346 hectares of rice areas regionwide.

● **Philippine Rice Information System (PRISM): An Operational System for Rice Monitoring to Support Decision Making - Towards Rice Production in the Philippines.**

Using data from remote sensing, crop models and in-field crop surveys, this project provides information on rice crop seasonality, area, yield, damage from flood, wind, or drought, and yield-reducing factors, such as diseases, animal pests, and weeds. It is interesting to note that for 2016 data, most insect pests observed only poses minimal injuries except for rice bug with 16.47% and 18.27 % infestation, respectively at dough stage where most of the grains are fully develop. Despite of the minimal incidence of pest and diseases observed, these would still cause severe damage to the rice crop when not regularly monitored and properly identified.

PRISM data collector recording GPS coordinates and related data; recording of crop health and injuries; gathering of yield data and moisture content of crop cut samples after harvest

CORN PROGRAM

The year 2016 was another milestone for corn R&D as promising location-specific package of technologies (POTs) for corn are now ready for commercialization and adoption by the farmers. Particularly, the study entitled “Considering Farmers Preferences in the Adaptation and Dissemination of White Corn as Staple Food in Caraga” has identified IPB Var8 (3.82t/ha) and Northland White (3.18t/ha) as the farmers’ most preferred corn varieties with 85% and 51% respective yield advantage over the traditional variety. Also, if recommended practices are followed, white corn can give as much as P19,240 net income compared to P15,994 in

growing hybrid corn owing to significantly reduced labor and agricultural inputs in growing white corn.

With these developments, white corn is now getting attention as farmers’ primary option in growing corn.

The Municipal Agriculturist of Tubay, Agusandel Norte, Delma Vasquez even vowed to cooperate in future white corn-related projects as for her, the project will help increase production of white corn in their municipality because it has good adaptability in their area.

“These varieties yielded higher and has better eating quality compared to our local varieties. If possible, we would like to request for registered seeds so we can produce certified seeds in our local community” said farmer cooperater Romy Lasco of Taguibo, Butuan.

Farmer-cooperator Romy Lasco during the seed sowing.

Another emerging technology is the Site-Specific Nutrient Management (SSNM) – Expert for corn which provides immediate decision support tool for nutrient management recommendation for white corn. The SSNM-Expert particularly advocates optimal use of indigenous nutrients originating from soil, plant residues, manures and irrigation water. The advent of this technology under the collaborative study between DA-Caraga and the Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) entitled “Farmer’s Participatory Evaluation of Site Specific Nutrient Management (SSNM)-Nutrient Expert for Corn” has gained attention in corn-growing areas of Surigao del Norte.

During the course of project implementation, participating farmers showed good reception of the recommended farming practices for they

do not only adopt the technology but also share the economic benefits of the innovation to their neighboring farmers.

“With that technology demonstrated to us for more than 3 croppings, I realized that corn applied with basal has a head start compared to corn without basal”, Mr. Gil E. Gingo said, farmer cooperater from Brgy. Cabugao, Bacuag.

His wife further added that she is thankful to DA-Caraga for introducing the technology to them which they would love to share to their neighboring farmers as well. In fact, according to her, many of their neighboring farmers already adopted the SSNM technology since they have witnessed themselves the performance of white corn in their area.

Other corn and cassava - related researches:

- **Adaptability Trial of New Cassava Varieties under Trento, Agusan del Sur Condition.** This study aims to determine the agronomic performance of five cassava varieties, evaluate the insect pest prevalence and disease severity and determine its yield and yield components under Trento, Agusan del Sur condition. So far, of the five varieties tested, Lakan 2 outperformed the rest of the varieties in terms of fresh tuber yield with 41.31 t/ha. NSIC Cv28 came next with 31.75 t/ha, Malagkit with 28.14 ton/ha, Lakan 2 with 19.36 t/ha, and lastly, Golden Yellow with 18.44 t/ha.
- **Yield comparison of cassava under different cutting method.** Determining the agronomic performance and yield and yield components of cassava under different cutting methods are the specific objectives of this study. Initial finding indicated that regardless of cutting method, agronomic, yield and yield components of cassava are the same.

LIVESTOCK PROGRAM

The DA-Caraga continues to strengthen R&D for livestock that are geared towards addressing food security, poverty alleviation, and profitability. For the year, four livestock researches were implemented across Research Stations which mainly promotes utilization of indigenous feed materials as substitute for commercial feeds. The central goal of these projects is to provide farmers with an alternative means of feeding animals that is budget friendly yet comparable with commercial feeds in terms of productivity and profitability.

- **Adaptability trial on newly developed OPV corn varieties under Del Monte Lowland Rainfed Research Station.** This study aims to determine yield and yield components of newly - developed OPV white corn varieties under Del Monte Talacogon condition and evaluate the tolerance of each variety to insect pest. Initial result showed that IPV Var6 obtained the highest yield at 3.36 t/ha followed by NSC Cn 222 with 3.0 t/ha while USM Var10 posted the lowest yield at 2.75 t/ha.
- **Considering farmers preferences in the adaptation and dissemination of white corn as staple food in Caraga.** This study is expected to select three to four improved white OPV corn varieties for commercial seed production based on yield and the results from preferential analysis and sensory test. For 2016, IPB Var8 achieved the highest yield, followed by IES 89-12, USM Var28, Tupi Red, and Northland White with 3.82 t/ha, 3.35 t/ha, 3.29 t/ha, 3.23 t/ha, and 3.18 t/ha, respectively. For preferential analysis, majority of the respondents preferred USM Var8 with an average preference score of 0.76. USM Var24 came next with 0.57, IPB Var8 and USM Var22 each with 0.38, and IES 10-04 with 0.19 preference score, respectively. For sensory test, USM Var22 was observed to be the top most preferred by the respondents with a sensory score of 1.2 indicating its superior quality vis-à-vis the rest of the varieties when it comes to eating quality and palatability. This is followed by the Farmer's variety (Tinigib) with 0.96, Tupi Red with 0.72, and USM Var22 with 0.24 sensory score, respectively.
- **Farmer's Participatory Evaluation of Site Specific Nutrient Management (SSNM) - Nutrient Expert for Corn.** The SSNM-NE is designed with the goal of increasing productivity and profitability of corn farming by suggesting meaningful yield goal and by providing a fertilizer management strategy required to attain the yield goal. In 2016, the study was conducted in 11 farms in Bacuag and Gigaquit, Surigao Del Norte using NSIC Cn222. Results of the evaluation showed that corn applied with SSNM-NE fertilizer recommendation (4 bags complete + 2 bags urea) applied in 2 splits during basal and 30 DAP has a yield advantage of 2.61 tons/ha relative to corn with no fertilizer applied during the whole duration of the crop growth. Further, average yield of corn adopting Nutrient Expert-based fertilizer recommendation had 21.5% yield advantage relative to farmer's practice which uses 1 bag complete mixed with 1 bag ammonium sulphate applied during 20-25 days after planting. These findings will be further validated in the next cropping period.
- **Collecting and Characterizing Philippine Native Corn Varieties in Region 13.** Conservation of corn germplasm in the region was initiated in 2015 under the Corn Germplasm Utilization through Advance Research and Development (CGUARD) project. This project aims to conserve and characterize remaining traditional cultivars in the region for future breeding programs. For the year 2015, germplasm exploration and collection was conducted in the provinces of Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Sur and Surigao del Norte. Through close collaboration with the provincial corn coordinators, about 106 traditional corn germplasm samples assembled, 20 accessions regenerated and 10 accessions characterized as of October 25, 2016. Twenty of the collected samples were already submitted to the National Plant Genetics Resources Laboratory and to the CGUARD team of the Institute of Plant Breeding- University of the Philippines Los Baños, Laguna (IPB-UPLB) for duplicate conservation and further various researches.
- **On-farm performance of duck feed with indigenous materials under Trento condition.** This study aims to showcase the economics of indigenous feed materials under integrated rice-duck farming system and compare the performance of mallard duck fed with indigenous feed materials versus the farmers' practice. Initial findings indicate that average body weight of ducks fed with indigenous materials do not differ significantly with that of the commercially-fed ducks. This implies that, indigenous feed materials can be a promising option to save cost for feeds without compromising the growth performance of ducks.
- **Performance of sheep supplemented with urea molasses mineral block (UMMB) under Trento condition.** This study aims to provide the growing and breeding sheep with high quality yet inexpensive source of essential nutrients for the animals. Specifically, this aims to determine the average body weight gain of the growing sheep, incidence of the internal parasites, and most importantly, assess the economics of this technology. Initial result shows higher growth performance of sheep supplemented with higher level of UMMB as compared to those with lower UMMB level and no UMMB at all, indicating its potential in supplementing crop residue-based diet to promote healthy growth and milk productivity of sheep and other dairy animals.
- **On-farm performance of swine feed with different feed formulations under Tagbina, SDS condition.** This study aims to produce a cost-efficient and yield-effective indigenous feed source as alternative to the relatively expensive commercial feeds. Initial findings indicate no significant difference in terms of live weight, carcass weight and length, dressing percentage, fat depth and thickness, and average daily gain between experimental animals fed with formulated feeds (using indigenous feed materials) and commercial feeds. This implies that using indigenous feed materials in growing swine can be a good option for budget-constrained swine growers. This result however still needs further validation in other growing field condition.
- **Growth and laying performance of crossbreed sazzo & kabir feed with locally home-made ration under Del Monte, TADS condition.** Conservation, improvement and utilization of native chicken to organize production and its marketing system are one of the inspiring reasons why this study was implemented. Like other livestock researches, this study wanted to establish the economics of using indigenous feed materials to provide farmers with a cost-efficient option that will give them a comparable income with that of commercial feed-based native chicken. Observation of the experimental animals is still on-going.

MFO 3.0

Irrigation Network Services

RICE PROGRAM

Water plays a vital role to rice production hence a total of Php 23 million was allocated for the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation facilities in the region.

In collaboration with the Regional Agriculture Engineering Division (RAED), the Rice Program facilitated the establishment of 1 unit Small Water Impounding Project in Surigao del Sur State University (SDSSU), San Miguel, Surigao del Sur, 1 unit Diversion Dam in Ubod-ubod, Baan, Butuan City, and 1 unit Small Farm Reservoir in Maharag, San Miguel, Surigao del Sur.

Three (3) units diversion dam were rehabilitated in Lanuza, Surigao del Sur, Bacuag, Surigao del Norte, and Buenavista, Agusan del Norte.

These projects are expected to serve 175 hectare-rice fields.

Further, in support to small scale irrigation projects, 25 units of pump and engine sets were distributed that would irrigate additional 75 hectares.

HVCD PROGRAM

The High Value Crops Development Program also supports irrigation services through small scale irrigation projects. Establishment of 2 units Spring Development in Trento, Agusan del Sur is now on-going. This is expected to serve 2 hectares of vegetable production area.

MFO 4.0

Farm to Market Road Network Services

Farm-to-Market Road Development Program (FMRDP) is jointly implemented by DA and DPWH. DA conducts the pre-implementation activities and monitoring and evaluation during its construction. DPWH does the implementation activities including the preparation of all documents, procurement and oversees the construction phase.

A total of 58.94 kilometer Farm-to-Market Roads (FMRs) were constructed from CY 2014- 2016 with total cost amounting to P 643.5M. These aids 30,000 recipients and served an area of 23,478 hectares planted with rice, corn, banana and other high valued crops. The project has also created local employment of 591 individuals.

For CY 2016, the program has an approved budget of P470M for FMR throughout the region. A total of 10.5 kilometer stretch of FMR is completed namely: Agusan del Norte- 2.46 km; Agusan del Sur- 3.45 km; Surigao del Norte- 1.59 km and; Surigao del Sur- 3.0 km.

In 2015, the program has completed 22.47 kilometer road section in the region amounting to P 197.0M. This includes the FMRs of Agusan del Norte with 4.14 km, Agusan del Sur with 2.63 km, Surigao del Norte with 5.0 km, Surigao del Sur with 7.3 km and Dinagat Islands with 3.4 km.

There are also FMR's funded in CY 2014 that were completed this year. A total of 25.97 kilometer road section amounting to P 309.0M were accomplished.

Construction of FMR has been a continuing program in the Department that aims to provide easy access of transporting produce from farm to market in hard-to-reach areas, thus reducing post-harvest losses. This not only concerns the movement of farm produce and input but also provide access to employment opportunities and basic social services (school, health and access to communication and technology). FMR serves as the catalysts in improving rural economy.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

For 2016, the Regional Agricultural Engineering Division (RAED) continued to render major technical support services. This is for the effective, efficient and successful implementation of various Pre and Post Harvest Farm Machineries, Irrigation facilities, Farm-to-Market Roads and other Agri-Related Infrastructure Projects. RAED conducts the validation, identification of sites, monitoring and evaluation of projects in coordination with the Agricultural Program Coordinating Office (APCO) and other LGU counterparts.

Further, it ensures the pro-active preparation of Specifications, Detailed Engineering Designs (DED) and Program of Works (POW) and other pertinent documents necessary for the implementation of projects.

Machinery, Equipment and Facilities Support Services

RICE PROGRAM

Mechanization plays a very important role in Agriculture to improve and hasten production, and reduce post-harvest losses in order to increase farm profitability and productivity.

This year the Rice Program has allocated around Php 10 million for the procurement of various pre and post-harvest facilities and equipment, increase the level of mechanization in the region.

Out of that allocation, the program was able to distribute three units of 4WD tractor, eight units hand tractor, five units floating tillers and three units transplanter. The said equipment have helped farmers in lowering the cost of land preparation and planting.

There were also seven (7) units rice reaper and 20 units thresher distributed which helped farmers reduce post-harvest losses during harvesting.

This year, out of 15 endorsements submitted to DSWD for Civil Society Organization (CSO) accreditation, 9 farmer associations were finally granted with a certificate of accreditation as beneficiary CSO for Rice Processing Center (RPC) projects as follows:

- Hinagnuyan Irrigators Association, Inc. San Pablo, Sison, Surigao del Norte
- Lemon Farmers Association Lemon, Butuan City
- Palasao Farmers Poultry/Livestock Raisers Association, Palasao, Cantilan, Surigao del Sur
- Pandanan Banlas Tabinay Bagunhian Farmers Association (PABANTABA FA) Patong-Patong, Madrid, Surigao del Sur
- First Trento Community Multi-Purpose Coop. (FITMPC), Trento, Agusan del Sur

- Hiniusang Kooperatiba sa Esperanza - Esperanza Federation of Coop. (HIKE - ESFECO), Poblacion, Esperanza, Agusan del Sur
- Tandag Agro-Fishery Marketing Coop. (TAFIMACO), Tandag City, Surigao del Sur
- Bayugan Farmer Millers Multi-Purpose Coop (BFMMPC) Maygatasan, Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur
- Agusanon Para sa Bag-ong Pilipino, Incorporated (Agus-Pinoy Inc.) Pisaan, San Francisco, Agusan del Sur

As to the accreditation of implementing CSO, 3 associations were finally granted with certificate of accreditation as follows:

- Agusanon Para sa Bag-ong Pilipino, Inc. (Agus-Pinoy) Pisaan, San Francisco, Agusan del Sur
- Hiniusang Kooperatiba sa Esperanza - Esperanza Federation of Cooperatives (HIKE- ESFECO), Esperanza, Agusan del Sur
- Butuan Agusan Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative, P-10, Los Angeles, Butuan City

With the accreditation, the Rice Program then was able to fast tract the downloading of funds as working capital to fully operationalize the following RPCs:

- RPC I - Lemon Farmers Association Lemon, Butuan City - Php 1M
- RPC II - Palasao Farmers Poultry/Livestock Raisers Association Palasao, Cantilan, Surigao del Sur - Php 2M
- RPC II - Pandanan Banlas Tabinay Bagunhian Farmers Association (PABANTABA FA) Patong-Patong, Madrid, Surigao del Sur- Php 2M
- RPC II - First Trento Community Multi-Purpose Coop.(FITMPC) Trento, Agusan del Sur, Php 2M
- RPC III - Agusanon Para sa Bag-ong Pilipino, Incorporated (Agus-Pinoy Inc.) Pisaan, San Francisco, Agusan del Sur- Php 6M

SUCCESS STORY

DA-RICE PROCESSING CENTER

Profitable Agriculture Enterprise

Sto. Niño Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SNMPC) in Butuan City is now reaping the profit of Department of Agriculture's (DA) agricultural modernization projects.

The cooperative was organized in 1991 with only 25 members composed of rice farmers. They started their operation on rice milling business from a bank loan. But over the years, the equipment and facility procured were already inefficient. This causes for their operation to be less productive.

In 2013 the cooperative was a recipient of RPC worth ₱4.5 million in which 15% of the total amount was the cooperative's counterpart. The center has a two-ton-per-hour multi-pass rice mill that gives the farmers 65% rate of recovery of their produce compared to small rice millers that only gives 50%.

RPC is a facility that showcases efficient rice postharvest operation through mechanization and automation. It ensures savings in labor cost, lesser losses, enhanced quality, improved distribution system and maximized use of buy-products.

"The facility is cost and energy efficient and makes our operation more productive. Before, the milling capacity was only 10 sacks per hour but today through the RPC it doubled to 20 sacks per hour. This time, we can accept customers thru market linkages who need order by volume every month," said Ms. Aranas.

Aside from their walk-in clientele SNMPC has established a marketing agreement with Mangagoy Fishermen Cooperative (MAFISCO) and San Roque Farmers & Displaced Workers Cooperative from Bislig City. They also have market linkages to Sto. Niño Consumers Cooperative from Magallanes, Agusan del Norte and Gingoog Rice Retailer from Gingoog, Misamis Oriental.

According to Ms. Aranas, an average of 2,430 sacks of rice (50 kilos per sack) valued

at ₱4,700,900 were sold every month to their identified buyers. DA-Marketing Assistance Division assisted the cooperative to make market linkages for potential buyers, she added.

The cooperative is now capable to produce premium milled rice. The enhanced rice quality through the use of the multi-pass rice mill serves as an avenue for the National Food Authority (NFA) to link partnership with the cooperative through a milling contract.

Furthermore, DA also provided pre and post-harvest facilities with a total worth of ₱ 2.2 million. Over the years the following equipment were granted to SNMPC: 3 units of flat-bed dryer, 4 units of multi-purpose drying pavement, 1 unit hand tractor and 1 unit rice transplanter.

Based on the cooperative's financial statement the total sale for the year 2011 was ₱17.7 million. While in 2012 it has a total sale of ₱21.4 million, or an equivalent of 17% increase. In 2013 a drastic increase of sales was recorded amounting to ₱33.2 million, or an equivalent of 35% increased.

This shows that the establishment of RPC is not only a service facility but an enterprising venture for farmers to do and learn how to run an agri-business operation to the best of their ability.

"Today we have 360 active members of the cooperative. SNMPC members are now receiving their dividend. Before the coop is incapable to give the dividend because the operation is not profitable. We are very thankful for the Department of Agriculture in restoring back our profitable operation. Now, we saw the great advantage on our part if we have our rice produced milled at the RPC," said Ms. Aranas

For the past 5 years (2011-2015), SNMPC has already accumulated a total asset of ₱21.6M respectively. For years, DA continues to provide the needed support to empower the farmers in Caraga and increase productivity. Through its Rice Program, mechanization is placed as one of its top priority.

CORN PROGRAM

Although the program was challenged to accelerate the delivery due to some requirements like authority to purchase, ten 4-wheel drive farm tractors were distributed timely to ten (10) group beneficiaries. These helped corn farmers cultivate new areas and attain maximum yield through better and more effective land preparation technology. Also, a total of Php37.09M worth of post harvest machineries comprised of two (2) corn pickers, three (3) corn planters and two (2) corn combined harvesters were distributed to seven (7) group beneficiaries.

The farm mechanization support adapted the 90:10 cash counter parting-scheme. This means that of the total amount, the Department of Agriculture will shoulder the 90% while the recipient provides the 10%.

The program also extended post-harvest facilities to increase production of quality corn grain and cassava, and reduce post-harvest losses. A total of Php16M worth of postharvest facilities were distributed; comprised of ten (10) units corn mill, two (2) units vertical dryer, seven (7) units hermetic storage, four (4) units vacuum pack sealer, seven (7) units mechanical Sheller, three (3) units moisture meter and 12 units cassava grater.

Further, two (2) village type corn processing centers worth Php 7M were turned-over in Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte and Talacogon, Agusan del Sur. The operationalization of these centers will ensure quality corn products and ultimately increase farmer's income.

HVCD PROGRAM

The HVCD Program provided various farm-production related equipment and machineries to 74 group beneficiaries. These composed of 13 units hand tractor, 13 units power sprayer, and 130 units knapsack sprayer.

A total of 12 group beneficiaries had received various post-harvest equipment and machineries. These include one (1) unit fruit dehydrator, three (3) units coffee depulper, one (1) unit coffee roaster, four (4) units coffee grinder, one (1) unit cacao grinder, and three (3) units coffee/cacao dryer.

Two (2) units of nursery were established in Tungao, Butuan City and in Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur to beef-up the production of quality planting materials for cacao.

Moreover, there will be three (3) community-based processing facilities for implementation to generate value adding of products in the community. The facilities include banana-chips processing facility in Placer, Surigao del Norte, coffee roasting facility in Tagbina, Surigao del Sur, and cacao products processing facility in Veruela, Agusan del Sur.

LIVESTOCK PROGRAM

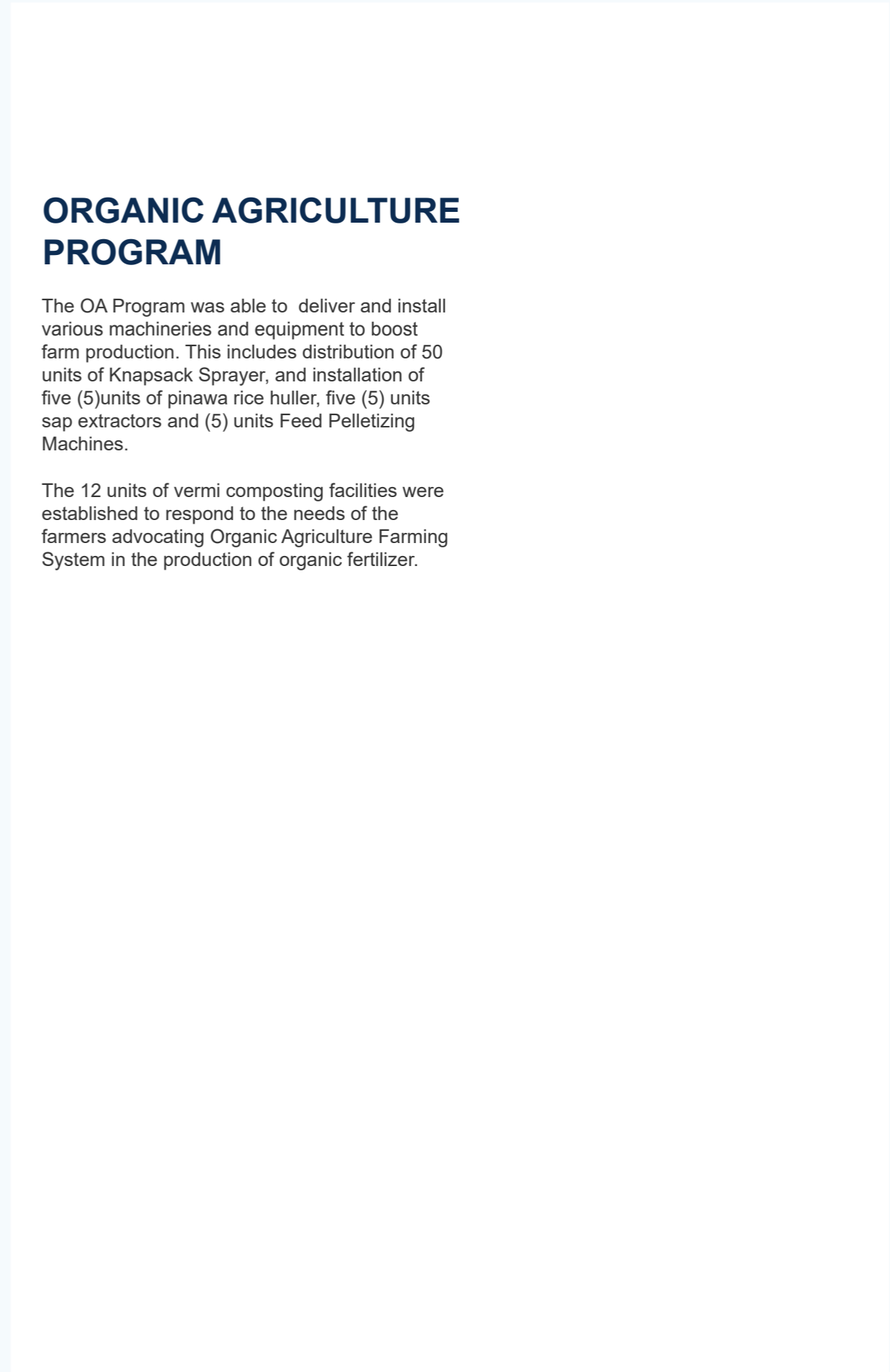
The Livestock Program procured 54 heads of goat of which 40 heads are angnonubian breed, 77 heads breeder cattle, 65 heads breeder carabao, 25 heads dairy carabao, 48 heads swine and 1000 heads duck. These were distributed to around 20 Breeder Stock Facilities of selected Local Government Units to infuse quality breeds.



ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

The OA Program was able to deliver and install various machineries and equipment to boost farm production. This includes distribution of 50 units of Knapsack Sprayer, and installation of five (5) units of pinawa rice huller, five (5) units sap extractors and (5) units Feed Pelletizing Machines.

The 12 units of vermi composting facilities were established to respond to the needs of the farmers advocating Organic Agriculture Farming System in the production of organic fertilizer.



MFO 6.0

Plant and Animal Regulation Services

Registration and Licensing

The Regulatory Division continues to implement its mandate of ensuring compliance to standards through licensing, quality control and inspection, and monitoring and surveillance to ensure public health and food safety.

On the enforcement of R.A. 1556 otherwise known as the "Livestock and Poultry Feeds Act," a total of 68 newly opened feed establishments were endorsed for initial registration and 45 renewal of applications were approved by BAI and RFO respectively.

Regular monitoring, spot inspections, and feed sample collections were conducted to ensure the quality of feeds and feedstuff sold in the market.

This Division has also conducted a series of provincial briefing on DA-Administrative Order #8 on the "Revised Guidelines on the Registration

and Licensing, poultry and by products handlers and Livestock carriers." This is to update livestock raisers, traders, dealers, abattoir operators, and animal facility owners on the guidelines and latest advisories related to the registration and licensing.

A total of seven (7) initial and 11 renewal of licenses for animal product handlers were facilitated and endorsed this year. A total of five initial applications and 15 renewals for registration were also facilitated for the transport carriers.

To strengthen and improve animal welfare practices, the division in coordination with the BAI has conducted an "Orientation seminar/ information dissemination for LGU Dog Pound, Veterinary Clinics, Pet Shops, and Laboratory Animal Facilities." As a result, the Division has facilitated and endorsed 21 application of registration for animal facilities.

Quality Control and Inspection

Due to the massive promotion and information campaign of the Philippine National Standards for Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP), and Organic Agriculture Certification, the Division was able to pre-assess 34 potential farms in the region.

It also facilitated and endorsed GAP certification application of Del Monte Lowland Rainfed Research Station.

The Antongalon Farmers Association of Caraga Inc (AFACI) being the only GAP certified farm in the region has maintained its compliance to standards and renewed its certification.

On the other hand, at least 30 famers/ officers of farmers' organizations potential for GAP, GAHP, and organic certification have attended the training on "Internal Control System for Farmers Organization" last November 21-23, 2016 at Balanghai Hotel, Butuan City. It equipped them with knowledge on how to administer quality assurance tools and prepare them for certification.

In ensuring quality control of plant nurseries, the Division has facilitated and endorsed three plant nurseries to Bureau of Plant Industry for accreditation.

Disease Monitoring and Surveillance

In the advent of cassava *Phytoplasma* Disease last year, the Regulatory Division has continuously monitored the spread on the affected areas, to contain the spread of the disease.

Frequent plant pest monitoring and surveillance were conducted to facilitate early detection.

The Crop Pest Management- Regional Technical Working Group has also assisted the cassava nurseries in the region to produce good quality and healthy planting materials.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Integrated Laboratory Services

Animal Disease Diagnostic Services

Early disease detection/surveillance resulted to the decreased of mortality rate from 12.22% from previous year to 1.78% this year. On the other hand, about 21% decrease in economic losses of our regions' livestock industry especially in ruminants.

Of the fourteen (14) diagnostic services conducted, Blood Parasite Examination (Surra disease), Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE), Bacterial Isolation and Fecalalysis had more than 100% accomplishment because these are the LGUs priority diseases identified for surveillance.

Rabies Prevention Control & Eradication Program

In support to the Regional Rabies Prevention Control & Eradication Program, the Bureau of Animal Industry provided 10,000 vials (100,000 doses) rabies vaccine for mass vaccination. There were three (3) LGUs namely Province of Agusan del Sur, Surigao City, Cabadbaran City who were awarded as best program implementer by Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases & Zoonosis - World Animal Health Organization (STANDZ-OIE) and Bureau of Animal Industry.

Animal Rabies cases has considerably decreased from 23% previous year to 18.13% this year. This is a result of the implementation of the different strategies especially on the Responsible Pet Ownership awareness.

Siargao Island was in the process of working its status for Rabies Free Zone in addition to our 2 declared Rabies Free Islands (Province of Dinagat Islands & Municipality of Socorro, Surigao del Norte).

Production of Biological Control Agent

With the widespread dissemination of Biological Control Agent (BCA) and the increasing farmers awareness of the importance of natural pest management, the demand of BCA has considerably increased. Thus, continuous production were done to suppress and manage major insect pest and diseases in rice, corn, vegetables, coffee, fruits, cassava, sugarcane and cacao. For CY2016, 75% of the productions were distributed. In order to manage the scale insect present in the coconut and lanzones at Trento Research Station, 1,520 number of adult conccinelid beetles were distributed.

Pest and Disease Surveillance, Monitoring and Diagnoses

A conduct of massive pest and disease surveillance and monitoring in the hotspot area in the Region. Rice, corn, cassava, and banana areas reported to be infested/infected with pest and diseases were validated and free BCA were given to the farmers.

Technical assistance and briefing were conducted to the Agricultural Extension Workers and farmers in mass production and utilization of BCA, to increase awareness and advocacy/adoption.

Soil Analysis

There were 3,253 samples received and analyzed from January to December 2016. This covers 3,032 hectares of farms serving 2,242 farmers/clients. Of these samples, 35% (1,125) were found to be below 5.5, the pH tolerance of most crops. This means, said areas need to apply agricultural lime or dolomite together with proper fertilizer application management in order to attain optimum crop yield.

Also, the Regional Soils Laboratory Staff together with the BSWM Regional Team conducted a region-wide soil sampling & testing, in the municipalities of Surigao del Sur (except Hinatuan). This is in support to President Duterte's food security intervention by creating a nationwide Color-Coded Guide Map on Soil Fertility & Crop Suitability.

Organic Fertilizer Assay

There were 177 organic fertilizer samples analyzed, serving a total of 85 clients including farmers, students & researchers. These comprised 147.5% and 212% against the annual target of 120 for samples analyzed and 40 for clients, respectively. Most requested analyses were Total Nitrogen, Total Phosphorus, Total Potassium, moisture content and pH. Most samples came from the Organic Agriculture beneficiaries of vermicomposting facilities who ventured into organic fertilizer production.

Special Assay

There were 157 samples for special assay analyzed for this period (130.83% of the annual target or 120 samples) and 17 clients were served which is just 42.5% to the annual target of 40 clients. The analyses requested were mercury content in sediments, fish muscles, plant, and mine tails and heavy metal content (lead, nickel, iron and cadmium) on sea grass samples. These special assay were mostly submitted by researchers of Caraga State University and K-12 students conducting Science Investigatory Project.

Soil Testing Kit(STK) and Rapid Soil Testing Refill (RST)

Thirty five STK refill and 21 RST refill requests were served this year. These were 116.67% and 105% to the annual target of 30 for STK and 20 for RST refills, respectively. Kits were from OPAG -Tandag, Surigao del Sur, LGU - San Agustin , SNCAT - Mainit, LuntawMindanaw Inc., Soils Lab - Patin-ay, Agusan del Sur, OPAG - ADN , Social Action Center - Pigdaulan, Butuan City and BSWM.

Feed Analysis

This service is in support to RA 1556 or Feed Law to ensure the quality of feeds and to assist individuals, students and researchers who intend to formulate their own feeds, or wanted to establish the nutrient contents of feeds. The Feed Chemical Analysis Laboratory offered analysis for crude protein, crude fat, crude fiber, moisture content and ash. This year, the laboratory has catered 1,219 feed and feed stuff samples coming from the Regulatory Division and walk in clients.

Aflatoxin Test

For feed safety and security concern, 151 corn samples and 103 feed samples were analyzed for aflatoxin content. There was an average of 4% decrease from last year's aflatoxin incidence, with 96% for corn samples & 99% for feed samples passing the 50 ppb limit. The continuing information dissemination and campaign about Aflatoxin conducted through the Corn Program resulted to the decrease in incidence rate of aflatoxin.

In support to the National Quality Corn Achievers Award, corn sampling were conducted in the different municipalities in Caraga last May 2016. To avoid biases, sampling were conducted together with the analysts from Region X, Ms. Razel Elaine Grace A. Cataluña; Region XI, Mr. Pacifico A. Quimbay, Jr.; and Region XII, Mr. Reynan H. Dumarang.

Similarly, our laboratory personnel, Ms. Luningning T. Racho and Mr. Pamie June Felicilda were also invited to do the corn sampling at Alamada, North Cotabato, Region XII last August 8-12, 2016.

The Completion of Regional Soils Laboratory Building marks the enhancement of laboratory services offered by the facility.

Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Division

The crafting of the 12 commodity roadmaps was one of the major activities spearheaded by the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division. This was made possible with the participation of the various stakeholders which include: the LGUs, NGAs, and farmer leaders.

Roadmap for the region's priority commodities: rice, corn, cassava, rubber, cacao, coffee, banana, mango, ruminants, swine, poultry and vegetables were drafted. These roadmaps will keep all the different sectors aligned with a defined vision to facilitate consensus on the implementation approach and investments.

The Performance Management Information System (PMIS) was launched and operationalized to systematically evaluate the performance of the entire agency as to physical and financial accomplishment. Work and Financial Plans of the different Banner Programs and Operating Units are stored in a central database for easy tracking of performance vis-a-viz the approved targets.

To ensure effective and timely project implementation, monitoring of projects was undertaken. This is to validate project status,

bottlenecks and other concerns that hinder the efficient utilization of funds and implementation and determine its impact on the agriculture sector and the lives of its beneficiaries. Monitoring reports with recommendations were provided to the management to guide actions and decisions.

Periodic reviews and assessments were conducted quarterly to discuss concerns and strategies in order to attain the goals and objectives set for the year.

Coordination meeting with LGUs, and RMCs were facilitated to ensure harmonized efforts in the implementation of plans and programs of the Agri/Fishery Sector.

Provincial Consultation-Workshops were also conducted to craft the Proposed Plan for CY 2018. These were clustered into five (5) comprised of the provinces of PDI, SDN, SDS, ADS, and ADN/Butuan City to provide a more focused discussion and efficient results. These were participated by the Provincincial and Municipal Agriculturists, Private Sector, Representatives of the Congressional Districts, in order to get a wider representation.

General Administration Support

The Administrative Division thru Human Resource and General Services Sections has always been a partner of the various division of the agency in carrying out its goals and objectives. It provides support to various departments to ensure smooth flow of transactions from one part to the other.

This year, crafting of the Human Resource Plan was conducted last March 18, 2016 pursuant to Sec. 31 of the Revised Administrative Code. The HR Plan will serve as a reference on how to develop and manage workforce diversities for organizational development.

A tribute was conducted for the retirement of the two (2) pillars of DA Caraga. This is to give honor to Dir. Edgardo D. Dahino, Regional Technical Director for Operations and Dir. Edna M. Mabeza, Acting Director IV on May 31 and July 27, 2016, respectively. The Salamat Mabuhay ceremony is meaningful to both retirees. Families, relatives and friends of the honorees were present during the event to surprise the honorees with their presentations and messages.

To boost employees morale, dedicated and loyal public servants of the agency were given due recognition during the Monday Mini Program hosted by the Administrative Division last September 12, 2016.

At least Ten (10) Employees who have reached 15 years of service were given 10k Gold Plated DA Pin.

Another Two (2) were given customized Wrist Watch for their 20 years of service. Mr. Mario Salinas, Agriculturist II from Regulatory Division was awarded 14k Gold Bracelet for his 40 years of dedicated service to the agency.

They all received cash and a Certificate of Appreciation.

Several trainings, conferences and workshops were conducted to enhance employees' skills to better serve the public.

Despite challenges met by the Admin Division, it is continuously seeking solutions for the timely delivery of its support services.

Financial Highlights

For CY 2016, the Department of Agriculture, Regional Field Office -Caraga has a total budget of Php715,029,518.38 net of the FMR allocation. The total obligation for current year appropriation was Php614,218,110.32 or 86% while Php47,910,533.91 and 71% of the continuing appropriations. For the unobligated balance of Php120,076,842.09, Php19,265,434.03 was declared as unutilized fund while Php100,811,408.06 will be considered as 2016 Continuing Appropriations for the following year (CY 2017). (Table 6)

The big chunk of the unobligated balance for CY 2016 is in Production Support Services (PSS) which accounted to Php30.7M with HVCDP having the biggest share of Php16M. This is followed by the Agricultural Facilities and Support Services amounted to Php10.2M of which Php6M is under the Corn Program. Extension Support Services has a remaining balance of Php9.1M with Rice Program's share of Php5.5M.

The unobligated balances from the above mentioned Banner Programs were the savings from the items procured in CY 2016. These will be utilized in CY 2017 as continuing fund for the procurement of additional agricultural production support, and equipment to address the pending requests of the farmers.

Table 6. CY 2016 Agency's Fund Utilization

Current Appropriations	Allotment	Obligations	Unobligated Balances	% Utilized
PS	99,519,518.38	99,381,752.45	137,765.93	99.86%
MOOE	466,522,000.00	379,682,949.75	86,839,050.25	81%
FinEx	50,000.00	-	50,000.00	0%
CO	148,938,000.00	135,682,949.75	13,784,591.88	91%
Total	715,029,518.38	614,218,110.32	100,811,408.06	86%
Continuing Appropriations				
PS	-	-		
MOOE	66,338,010.94	47,106,850.91	19,231,160.03	71%
FinEx	35,700.00	9,600.00	26,100.00	27%
CO	802,257.00	794,083.00	8,174.00	99%
Total	67,175,967.94	47,910,533.91	19,265,434.03	71%

As compared to CY 2015 total budget, the CY 2016 budget decreased by 29% as shown in Table 7. The reason was the considerable decrease in BuB and PAMANA allocation.

Table 7. Comparative Budget Appropriations

Allotment Class	CY 2015	CY 2016	Amount Increased/ Decreased	% Increased/ Decreased
PS	77,684,410.00	99,519,518.00	21,835,108.38	28
MOOE	646,813,000.00	466,522,000.00	- 180,291,000.00	- 28
FinEx	65,000.00	50,000.00	- 15,000.00	- 23
CO	874,630,000.00	565,938,000.00	- 308,692,000.00	- 35
Total	1,599,192,410.00	1,132,029,518.38	- 467,162,891.62	- 29

Special Projects

Bottom-up-Budgeting

This year, Bottom-up Budgeting (BuB) has a total allocation per General Appropriation Act (GAA) amounting to 98 million. The program has shifted its focus from livelihood support in CY 2013-2014 to Pre and Post Harvest Facilities in year 2015-2016. Its goal remains by providing the grassroots level (Civil Society Organization) to choose their priority projects pursuant to the needs of their community.

On October 3, 2016, LGU of Placer took a ceremonial ground breaking of their Food Terminal project amounting to 1.5 million in conjunction to their planned Integrated Land Transportation project under LGU-fund. The project was designed to support the farmers and local merchandizers by giving them an avenue of selling their produce direct to the consumers in the locality and neighbouring municipalities.

Likewise on December 8, 2016 during Secretary Piñol's Byahing Bukid "Farmers and Fisherfolks Stakeholders Forum" in Tandag City, several BuB 2016 projects worth 30 million were turned-over to the LGU recipients.

Director Lilibeth Famacion of DILG-Caraga had formally announced the end of the program this year. But the program will be reinstalled with its new name "Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities" or ADM. The funds for the projects will be directly downloaded to the participating municipalities in Caraga region. The role of the agency is to provide technical assistance to LGUs.

Although BuB has ended its budget this year, monitoring and evaluation activities of projects continues since there are still bulk of on-going projects to be monitored.

Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP)

The Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) is in the middle of its implementation. On its third year, the Regional Project Coordination Office –Caraga had strengthened partnership and linkages with Local Government Units (LGUs), National Government Agencies and other stakeholders.

At the end of 2016, PRDP completed one sub-project which contributes to the attainment of the objectives of PRDP. The completed farm-to-market road supports the farmers and fishers increase their marketable surpluses and access to markets.

For this reporting period, Caraga Region has a total I-BUILD portfolio of P1.816 Billion worth of projects and a total of P107.2 Million worth of subprojects under the Enterprise Development Component. IPLAN Component has assisted 5 provinces and 1 city on their Provincial Commodity Investment Plans (PCIP) and City Commodity Investment Plans (CCIP). The Project Implementation Support component maintain its active support to various activities of the Project.

I-PLAN *(Investments for AFMP Planning at the Local and National Levels)*

A total of 10 Value Chain Analysis (VCA) studies were approved cluster-wide. On top of these, was a region-wide VCA study of Abaca of Caraga Region. These VCAs were used in the commodity prioritization which was translated into PCIP and CCIP.

For the year 2016, five (5) Provincial Commodity Investment Plans (PCIPs) and one (1) City Commodity Investment Plan (CCIP) were updated and published to the Management Information System (MIS). These PCIPs were from the provinces of Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Province of Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur, and a CCIP from Butuan City.

The I-PLAN's continuous advocacy is for the provinces/city to use the PCIP and CCIP to outsource fund from other national agencies and funding donors. As part of the campaign, the PCIP and CCIP is included in the discussion for planning and budgeting.

The component also conducted the assessment on the regional performance and identify the challenges vis-à-vis Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Plan (RAFMP) 2011-2017 Implementation. This is in preparation for the successor RAFMP 2018-2023.

I-BUILD *(Intensified Building Up of Infrastructure and Logistics for Development)*

The I-BUILD ended the year by completing and turning-over the 1-kilometer Gamoton-Lake Mainit FMR located in Barangay Songkoy, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte. Also, another 3 subprojects were in their 40-60% physical and financial accomplishments. These were the sub-projects of the Concreting of Tag-anahaw to San Isidro Farm to Market Road, Construction of Batucan-Malihao-Del Monte Farm-to-Market Road, and Construction/Concreting of NRJ Anilao -

Mahayahay Farm to Market Road.

The project regularly conducted joint monitoring with PSO-Mindanao and RPCO team. This is to ensure that the projects are implemented according to the guidelines and timeline. This is also to determine the issues and challenges of the implementing units and to provide technical support and appropriate recommendations.

The table below shows the distribution of approved subprojects in the Region with the indicative costs. Other infrastructure subprojects are consisting of all-weather dryers, watch towers and warehouses and loading stations under I-REAP component.

Subproject type	No. of SPs	Quantity	Unit	Total Project Cost
FMRs	18	115.12	km.	1,345,735,314.49
FMR with Bridge	1	8.85	km-lm.	148,498,000.00
Irrigation	5	1,350	has.	267,566,330.55
Other Infra	7	25	no.	54,208,311.43
Regional Total	31			1,816,007,956.47

The status of the 31 subprojects per province is indicated below:

Province	Subproject Type	Completed	On-going (50% & above)	On-going (below 50%)	Awarded but not yet contracted/started	Bid out but not yet awarded	Bid documents, FS/DE ready/ for bidding	Bid documents, FS/DE under review	Proposed SPs under review stage
Agusan del Norte	FMRs	1		1					
	FMR with Bridge					1			
	Irrigation				1				
	Other Infra			1				1	
Agusan del Sur	FMRs		2	1		2	2		1
	Irrigation							4	
	Other Infra						1		
Surigao del Norte	FMRs			3		2			
Surigao del Sur	FMRs					1			
	Other Infra							4	

I-REAP *(Investments for Rural Enterprises, and Agricultural and Fisheries Productivity)*

The I-REAP component facilitated validation and review of new business plans and new Proponent Groups at the mid of the year 2016. A total 14 business plans were crafted, reviewed and endorsed to PSO. This included five (5) micro enterprises and eleven (11) regular enterprises. At the end of the year, 1 micro enterprise and 1 regular enterprise were provided with No Objection Letter (NOL) by the World Bank. This are the Banana Production and Trading and Quality Raw Rubber Production, Processing and Marketing, respectively. Both were from the province of Agusan del Sur.

Series of technical reviews, RPAB and other preparatory activities were conducted to ensure that all pipelined enterprises were endorsed to the PSO. All concerned P/CPMIUs actively participated with the I-REAP related activities.

The I-REAP component has 14 subprojects amounting to P107.25 Million. Distribution of the subprojects and the corresponding cost is presented below.

Province	No. of Subprojects	Total
Agusan del Norte	6	66,235,924.21
Agusan del Sur	2	9,909,875.62
Dinagat Islands	3	13,383,644.87
Surigao del Norte	2	12,925,200.00
Surigao del Sur	1	4,800,000.00
Grand Total	14	107,254,644.70

I-SUPPORT *(Project Implementation Support)*

I-SUPPORT Component is composed of the following Units: Administrative, Finance, Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES), Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), Geo-mapping and Governance Unit (GGU), Information Advocacy Communication and Education (InfoACE) and Procurement.

Each unit plays an important role in the successful implementation of PRDP by providing support to the components of the Project. The Economist, under the Deputy Project Director, mainly supports the I-BUILD and I-REAP components in ensuring the feasibility of all proposed subprojects through economic financial analysis.

The SES, on the other hand, facilitates compliance of the proponents on various documents to ensure subprojects are supportive to and consistent with the framework of environmental and social safeguards. The unit also facilitates the establishment of Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) in the communities where the subprojects are located and monitors its functionality.

The M&E unit assisted the I-BUILD and I-REAP Components by ensuring that pertinent

documents of subproject proposals and business plans are complete. Enabling documents are secured to ensure that the implementation of enterprises and subprojects are in order.

Procurement unit played an important role in the procurement activities. Finance also provided support thru ensuring that request for Certificate of Availability of Funds (CAF) are timely and complete. GGU ensured that the road influence area (RIA) was established and geo-tagged photos were intact. Also, the Administration unit is responsible for the personnel complementation for the project.

InfoACE unit played a major role in information campaign of PRDP. Information Caravan was conducted in different provinces to re-orient the LGUs and LCEs about PRDP and also encouraged them to propose more subprojects in line with the PCIP/CCIP. They also took the lead in creating Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) flowchart material to empower the beneficiaries in the community. The beneficiaries were interviewed to share their experience and practices in project implementation. The InfoACE team captured these stories and showcased it by creating audio visual presentations and printed copies.

Agriculture and Fishery Council

AFC Consultation Meeting

As a result of continuous conduct of consultation meetings, Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council (RAFC) has endorsed 18 resolutions geared towards helping farmers and fisherfolk.

The Council supported the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice) campaign #Brown4Good thru requesting regional line agencies and bureaus, attached agencies and corporations of DA to serve brown rice during events.

Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol has recently issued, dated November 11, a memorandum order supporting the consumption of brown rice by serving it with white rice (and corn grits, sweet potato and other food staples) during trainings, meetings and feeding program.

This has helped increase the demand and market for brown rice. One objective of the campaign is to support the present administration's primary goal to attain rice self-sufficiency by 2019 and that by producing brown rice increases farmers' production by 10%, thereby, helping increase rice productivity.

Moreover, based on the report of National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) of BFAR that overfishing and overexploitation have been observed in Dinagat Sound and Hinatuan Passage. In response, RAFC has endorsed a resolution for the observance of fishing season for K.pelamis (pawayan) T.albacares (panit/barilis) and P.mento (bangsi).

In effect, on 15 August 2016, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued Regional Memorandum Circular No. 2016-19 enjoining Local Government Units along coastal and fishing areas to devise and strictly implement measures that ensure proper harvest of the above said species.

This includes, but not limited to the strict implementation of RA 8550 (Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998) and other appropriate actions such as activation of Bantay-Dagat, carrying out ordinances and other strategies to prevent overfishing, overexploitation, mangrove conversion and other activities that degrade the marine habitats.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Product of council's efforts on conducting successive monitoring and evaluation activities, RAFC Caraga holds its record as the top monitoring region in CY 2016, as announced by the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) during the 2nd PCAF's Volunteers' Day on December 14-15, 2016 at Hotel Stotsenberg, Clark Pampanga.

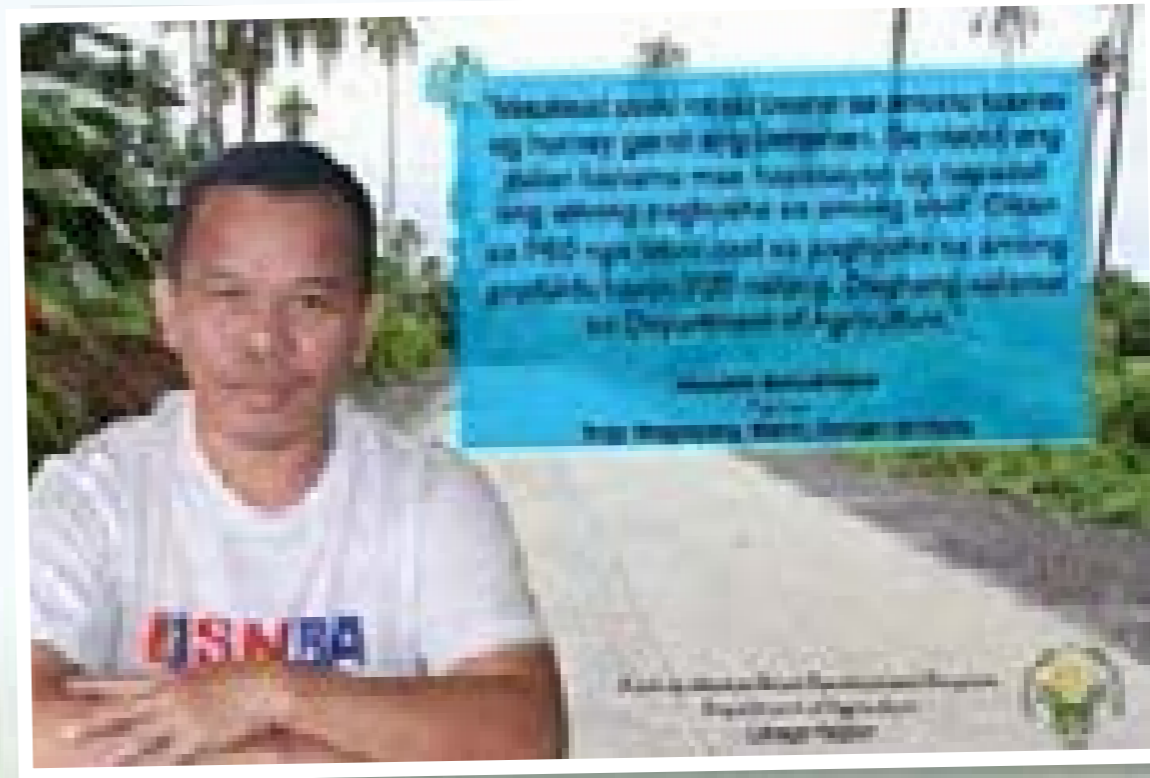
Monitoring and Evaluation, is one of the mandated core functions of AFC and has served as information channel of DA-Caraga and other agencies who are involved on agriculture and fishery modernization. It gives up-to-date feedbacks on the outputs and impacts of the programs and projects provided to the farmer/fisherfolk-beneficiaries.

The CY 2016 RAFC Cross Monitoring Activity has brought some changes in the policies/guidelines

on the endorsement of acquiring project support from DA-Caraga. It was agreed by DA-Caraga and the Council that in CY 2017, the approval of the endorsements and proposals in the localities will be based on the recommendation of the AFCs on certain levels. This is for AFCs to evaluate the feasibility and sustainability of the proposed projects in the area and to gain information on the capability of the proposed beneficiary on handling such project. In effect, it will somehow ensure the success and sustainability of the programs and projects implemented by the agency.

The monitoring and evaluation activities also helped farmers gather relevant information on the best practices and milestones from other farmers that may lead to full utilization of the support's potential on acquiring a desired results.

FARMER'S TESTIMONIALS











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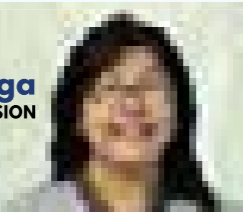
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