

Message



The year 2011 marks another milestone in the life of the people behind the agriculture and fishery sector in Caraga Region.

We started the year with a resolve to be supportive and consistent to the Agri-Pinoy Framework anchored on the principles of food security and self-sufficiency, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, natural resource management and local development.

With the positive response and strong support of the Local Government Units, government agencies, non-government organizations, people's organizations, academic institutions, private sectors and other stakeholders, remarkable accomplishments were put in place such as the needed infrastructures and irrigation facilities complemented by interventions and services on production, marketing, research, regulatory, extension, education and training and the incessant review, formulation and advocacy of policies all geared towards achieving sustainable development of the farming and fishing communities.

Furthermore, the various initiatives undertaken by the LGUs and other partners has impelled the sector to what it has achieved for the year and concretized the need for pooling of resources for more meaningful programs and projects in furthering agriculture and fishery development in the region.

With the Caraganons marching forward towards making Caraga an agribusiness region, expect the Department of Agriculture to continually bridge the gap and touch the hearts of the stakeholders by helping rural communities prosper through making farms profitable thereby ensuring food security and providing surplus for agro-industry.

Godspeed!

Edna M. Mabeza

Edna M. Mabeza, Ph. D.

OIC-Regional Executive Director

PERFORMANCE OF THE SECTOR

Caraga’s agricultural production decreased by 8.95 percent in 2011. The crops subsector, which contributed 91 percent to the total agricultural production, declined by 9.06 percent, while livestock, poultry and fisheries decreased by 13.69 percent, 3.20 percent and 4.97 percent, respectively.

From the crops subsector, only palay and rubber production increased by 2.74 percent and 4.31 percent. Other priority crops of the region such as coffee, banana, abaca, and vegetables declined. Gross value of crop production was P16.812 billion at current prices and was higher by 7.55 percent from the 2010 level.

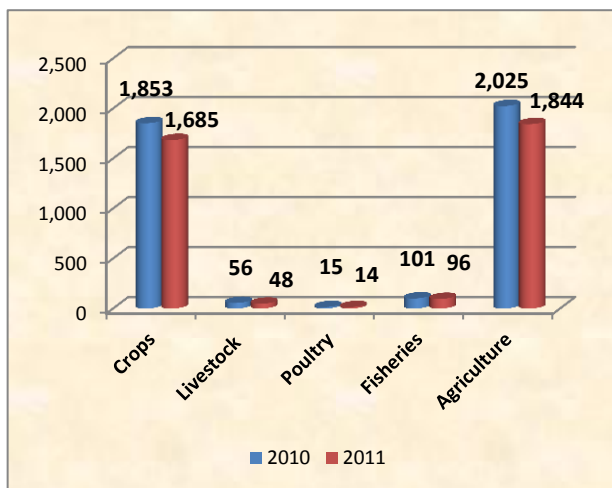
For the livestock subsector, only cattle production posted a positive growth of 0.51 percent. Carabao, hog, and goat production registered negative outputs with 10.69, 14.12 and 20.94 percent in 2011. At current prices, the subsector grossed P3.964 billion or 11.88 percent lower than the previous year’s value.

The poultry subsector also suffered a 3.2 percent setback for the year with a gross value of 1.031 billion, 2.65 percent lower compared to 2010 record.

The fisheries subsector also decreased by 4.98 percent production grossing P5.162 billion. The value is higher by 1.92 percent than the previous year’s output.

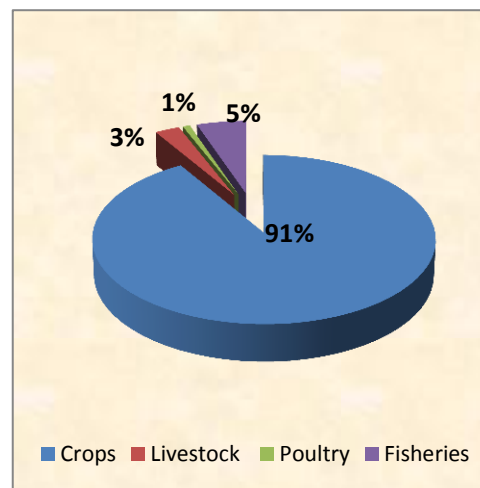
Average farmgate prices in the region increased by 4.55 percent in the year 2011. All subsectors recorded price gains with crops subsector expanding to 22.78 percent. Prices in the livestock subsector were up by 2.10 percent while poultry subsector grew by 0.54 percent. In the fisheries subsector, prices increased by an average of 7.26 percent.

Figure 1. Volume of Production in thousand metric tons, 2010-2011



Source: Bureau of Agricultural Statistics-Caraga

Figure 2. Percentage Distribution of Output in Agriculture per Subsector, Jan-Dec 2011



Source: Bureau of Agricultural Statistics-Caraga

Increases in the production of rice and rubber was attributed to the increase in area and yield and more rubber tapping activities due to higher price from P56 in 2010 to P70 in 2011.

Decreases in production of other crops were due to excessive harvesting in the past quarters for coconut, rejuvenation of coffee trees, continuous rains which affects flowering of mango and the presence of bunchy top diseases in abaca. Production of other crops also decreased due to lesser area harvested.

The decreases in the livestock and poultry subsectors were observed due to the lesser marketable stocks for disposal. Production of eggs was affected by the declining number of laying flocks especially in commercial farms.

The decline in fisheries production was also attributed to the lesser unloading of transient commercial fishing boats, some local fishing vessels were under repair and the decrease in the production of seaweeds.

Table 1. Volume of Production, January-December 2010-2011

Commodities	Volume of Production (in thousand MT)		% Change
	*2011	2010	
Crops			
Palay	417.00	405.87	2.74
Corn	75.68	94.08	(19.56)
Coconut	879.41	988.21	(11.01)
Banana	204.20	210.39	(2.94)
Pineapple	4.14	4.73	(12.47)
Coffee	2.01	2.25	(10.67)
Mango	12.16	15.52	(21.65)
Abaca	5.69	6.06	(6.11)
Peanut	0.09	0.16	(43.75)
Mongo	0.12	0.15	(20.00)
Cassava	23.61	41.12	(42.58)
Camote	27.91	48.74	(42.74)
Tomato	0.18	0.31	(41.94)
Cabbage	0.02	0.08	(75.00)
Eggplant	2.97	3.93	(24.43)
Calamansi	4.81	4.94	(2.63)
Rubber	15.25	14.62	4.31
Others	9.61	11.64	(17.44)
Livestock			
Carabao	3.96	4.44	(10.81)
Cattle	1.37	1.37	0.51
Hog	41.85	48.73	(14.12)
Goat	1.16	1.47	(21.09)
Poultry			
Chicken	11.26	11.60	(2.93)
Duck	0.18	0.23	(21.74)
Chicken Eggs	2.31	2.33	(0.86)
Duck Eggs	0.47	0.53	(11.32)
Fisheries			
Commercial	6.06	7.22	(16.07)
Municipal	66.60	69.07	(3.58)
Aquaculture	23.49	24.90	(5.66)

*Preliminary Estimates

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Statistics

Production Support Services



The Rapid Seed Supply Financing Project (RaSSFiP) Phase III, in partnership with the National Food Authority (NFA), served a total of 52,249 farmers for the two (2) croppings of the year.

During the dry and wet cropping seasons, the 153,630 hectares planted with different rice varieties produced an average yield of 3.5 mt/ha. This is also attributed to the provision of Location Specific Interventions (LSI) such as Zinc Sulfate and foliar fertilizer. Seed assistance was also

provided to flash flood affected farmers in the two (2) Agusan provinces during the first quarter of the year.

The suspension on seed support had encouraged the Local Government Units (LGUs), led by the Province of Agusan del Sur and Butuan City, to provide seed assistance to its constituents.

In order for the farmers to acquire certified palay seeds of their own, Community Seed Banking was



His Excellency President Benigno S. Aquino III turned-over to Butuan City Mayor Ferdinand M. Amante, Jr. various interventions during his visit to the region on January 2011. With him are DILG Secretary Jesse M. Robredo (right) and DA 13 Director Reinerio B. Belarmino, Jr.



established by providing the Irrigators' Associations with two (2) kilograms of Registered Seeds per IA member as starter seeds and shall be paid after harvest. As of yearend of 2011, there were 159 bags already distributed.

For the Corn Program, about 400 bags of IPB var6 were distributed. As a registered Open Pollinated Variety (OPV), the seeds can still be used as

planting materials for the succeeding cropping. Also, two (2) units farm tractor were given to the LGUs of Bunawan, Agusan del Sur and Butuan City under the Pilot Farm Mechanization and Tractor Pool Program. Three (3) other units are still on process for the LGUs of Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte; Bayugan and Veruela, Agusan del Sur.



The High Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP) distributed 300 kilograms of assorted vegetable seeds, 20,000 pieces malunggay plantlets and 16,700 pieces assorted fruit trees.

In support to the Food Staple Sufficiency Program, production of banana, soyabeans and sweet potato in the stations is intensified. Planting materials for these commodities will be ready for distribution in the first semester of 2012.

Other interventions facilitated by the Program includes the provision of 143 knapsack sprayers, 328 pH meters, 15 heads Carabao and 47 small farm implements (harrow and plow) as well as the establishment and rehabilitation of 15 rainshelters, 3 screenhouses, 7 nurseries, 3 seed storage, 3 planting material laboratory, 6 biological fertilizer plants (vermi, shed, NFTs Production House) and 1 biological control plant (Metarrhizium laboratory).



Governor Adolph Edward G. Plaza (left) of Agusan del Sur and RTD Constancio C. Maghanoy, Jr. of DA-RFU 10 testing the equipment of the LN2 Plant. Looking on are Provincial Veterinarian Joriz B. Elevazo (in black shirt) and Regional Livestock Program Coordinator John E. Gamboa, Sr.

The office intensified support to Artificial Insemination Program by putting up P6M worth of Liquid Nitrogen Plant in partnership with the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and the Provincial LGU of Agusan del Sur. The project was launched last November 17, 2011 at Patin-ay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur and is currently producing 40 liters a day serving the five provinces of Caraga and the neighbouring regions.

With ready supply of liquid nitrogen, artificial insemination activities are hastened contributing to the genetic improvement of animal stocks in the region.

In addition, 1,890 pieces of semen straws and 432 liters were distributed to the LGU counterparts as support to the program.



On the second semester of 2011, a joint massive artificial insemination activity with LGU technicians and Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) was conducted inseminating a total of 2,220 animals (463 cattle, 1,692 carabao and 65 goats) and benefiting 2,206 farmers.



The Swine Restocking Program, which was started in 2010, has already collected 24 heads and re-dispersed 12 heads out of the 22 boar and 48 gilt breeders distributed to swine raisers and LGU breeding centers.

The regional laboratories on soils, seed quality control, animal disease diagnostic and feed analysis served a total of 1,139 clients.

Also, soil fertility mapping were conducted with support from the Rice and Corn Programs.

Under the regular programs, vermiculture and the development of forage and pasture areas were given priority.

Irrigation Development Services

The office established five (5) small farm reservoirs and one (1) site spring development under the HVCD Program. It had also distributed 51,100 meters High Density Polyethylene Pipes (HDPE-SDR 11) and 1,463 pieces plastic water drum for vegetables and mango. These facilities will serve a total area of 88 hectares.



Market Development Services



served as additional market outlets for small farmers and fisherfolks in the area and stabilized prices as well as provided employment to the rural folks.

The office assisted in identifying and negotiating five (5) suppliers for the barangay food terminals.

In pursuit of food security and self-sufficiency, ten (10) Barangay Food Terminals were established in the municipalities and cities to meet the food requirements of the people particularly staple foods and make them accessible, affordable, safe and nutritious. The project also



Asst. Secretary Salvador S. Salacup as guest speaker during the 4th National Minifruit Market Encounter in Butuan City.

Furthermore, the conduct of several activities such as the Bookkeeping and Basic Accounting, Implementers and Operators Planning Workshop and quarterly meetings of the Agribusiness Coordinators helped the sustainability of the projects.

Also, eight (8) trade fairs were attended by fifteen (15) farmers and entrepreneurs that generated total sales of P640, 000. In addition, in partnership with NGOs, four (4) market encounters/fora were conducted to strengthen the fruit/vegetable industry as well as to facilitate market matching and linkages between buyers and the fruit/vegetable growers.



During the celebration of the Consumer Welfare Month last October, the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the other members of the ConsumerNet, spearheaded the conduct of various activities anchored on the theme “Pagkaing Sapat, Abot kaya sa Lahat”. Among the activities were Consumers’ Quiz Bowl, Poster Making Contest and the Consumers’ Forum dubbed as “ConsumerNet Meets the Public” which was attended by 200 participants.

Credit Facilitation Services

A total of 20 individuals and five (5) groups/organizations were assisted to access credit from the Land Bank of the Philippines, Rural Bank, Enterprise Bank and other lending institutions.

The funding assistance is focused on cassava, oil palm, high value crops and livestock, particularly meat processing.



Other Infrastructure and Post Harvest Development Services



The infrastructure and other post harvest facilities is a major component of the DA Banner Programs.

A total of 18.02 kilometers farm to market road was completed out of the targeted 28.87 kilometers. The remaining projects are on-going and some others are still for implementation.

Bulk of the Rice Program’s budget, estimated at 45% or about P55M, was allocated in the procurement of flat bed dryers, threshers, combine harvester and the construction of Multi Purpose Drying Pavement (MPDP).

There is also an on-going implementation of one (1) unit village type Corn Processing Center in the Municipality of Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte and the rehabilitation of 10 warehouses of Irrigators' Associations (IA) region-wide.



Under the HVCDP, 23 units postharvest processing equipments were distributed along with the establishment of five (5) household and village level processing facilities.

In continuous promotion of the Tubular Polyethylene Digester (TPED), eight (8) units were installed and five (5) TPEDs were rehabilitated.

Extension Support, Education and Training Services

The Extension Support, Education and Training Services plays a vital role in the implementation of DA programs for the farmers to be equipped with knowledge and skills in farming technology through the conduct of Farmers Field Schools (FFS), School on the Air (SOA), technology demonstrations, specialized trainings and massive information dissemination through distribution of IEC materials, radio and TV plugging.



OIC-RED Edna M. Mabeza during live interview on DXJM Butuan City with anchor Aurell Arais.

Under the Rice and Corn Programs, in coordination with the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), 31 batches of FFS and 2 Training of Trainers (TOT) on Upland Rice Production were conducted with 927 farmers. Also, an exposure trip to Arakan Valley, North Cotabato was done to observe the upland rice production in that area.



For HVCDP, seven (7) farmers were chosen to showcase abaca, banana, rubber, coffee, soybean, cacao and vegetable. They were trained and will serve as technicians/lecturers to their fellow farmers.

The Livestock Program conducted two (2) trainers’ training on sausage manufacture and biogas installation, one (1) basic feed formulation and three (3) basic meat processing.

To intensify information dissemination on the latest trends and technologies, about 10,000 various IEC materials were distributed and eight (8) radio programs, one (1) School on the Air on Upland Rice Development, news conferences and radio guestings were conducted. The radio programs were conducted in coordination with the Local Government Units (LGUs).



Agri-Pinoy Teknoklinik and conduct of awareness-related activities on rice were also undertaken in partnership with ATI, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Regulatory Services

The international declaration of the entire country as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) free is a product of almost five decades of strict quarantine measures introduced in all entry and exit points in the country. The change in the health status provides an opportunity for the livestock industry to capture the export market in the field of cloven footed animals, animal products and by products.



With this declaration, a change in the policy in the maintenance of a disease free country is being formulated to address new emerging and re-emerging diseases in the country. Quarantine measures are strictly enforced to ensure that the freedom now gained by the declaration of the international disease committee will be maintained.

In the enforcement of regulatory and quarantine laws, a total of 5,337 shipping permits and phytosanitary certificates were issued for domestic and international movements and 7,726 incoming permits were verified for plant, animal and animal products while 74 feed establishments, 13 animal facilities, 20 animal product handlers, 37 veterinary drugs and product outlets were registered and 87 animal facilities were inspected.



The Plant Quarantine Office identified three species of mango fruitfly namely: *Bactrocera philippinensis*, *Bactrocera occipitalis* and *Bactrocera umbrosa*. The

identification of these species is part of the National Mango Fruitfly Survey conducted throughout the country. So far, there was no other species of fruitfly that may cause significant damage to mango. This activity supports the claim that the Philippines is free from the presence of Mediterranean Fruitfly (*Ceratitis capitata*).

The office, in coordination with the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), is also closely monitoring the entry of Coconut Leaf Beetle (*Brontispa longissima*) which affects seedlings and mature coconut and other palm species. IEC materials on the prevention and control of the pest were also distributed.

Research and Development Services

The research studies conducted in the region are focused on adapting and mitigating climate change.



For rice, yield trials and varietal selection on saline-tolerant, submergence and fancy rice were conducted to select and disseminate locally adapted and preferred lines or varieties for the different provinces in the region.

For stress-tolerant varieties, initial findings in the previous cropping showed that NSIC Rc 188, NSIC Rc 184, NSIC Rc 190, and PR 28377-AC-97-54

have better yield (4 mt/ha) while for submergence varieties, Cihorang, PSB-RC82 Sub1 and PSB-Rc 82 performed better (4 mt/ha) compared to other varieties tested.

Also, the rice technology demonstration on Palay Check System in Tago, Surigao del Sur using the Effective Microorganism (EMO) as inoculant obtained a yield of 7.2 mt/ha in the first cropping using the RC 222 hybrid rice variety.



Another rice project funded by PCARRD is the science and technology-based farming on rice+duck+tilapia which was established in Magallanes, Agusan del Norte. Mr. Bonifacio Lanzuela, Outstanding Rice Farmer in Caraga Region, adopted the latest technologies and is regularly harvesting tilapia and duck eggs for balut making.



The Rice Program had also transferred P1.5M to PhilRice and P1.5M to Surigao del Sur to support various research activities on upland rice and rice-duck integration, respectively.

For corn, technology demonstration on tipid abono and "Corn Productivity Enhancement in Agusan del Sur using Site Specific Nutrient Management (SSNM) Strategies" were conducted.

These studies are aimed at reducing the application of inorganic fertilizer and ensuring that right nutrients are applied at the right time, thus, eliminating wastage of fertilizer and improve productivity and income of corn farmers.



The participants to the soybean field day in Tago and San Miguel, Surigao del Sur last August 11, 2011 have also selected the soybean variety suitable in their areas.

Based on the trials conducted, 10-12 mt/ha grain yield was attained from applying 140-160 kg/ha of Urea; 55-60 kg/ha of Phosphorus; and 55-65 kg/ha of Potash as the developed recommended rate.

Other researches conducted were focused on regional priority crops such as rubber, banana, soybean, vegetables, livestock and sorghum, one of the potential feedstocks for biofuels, and the implementation of five (5) Community-Based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) and Vermiculture. For the CPAR projects, 225 farmer cooperators ventured into organic farming using vermicompost and vermicast and had formulated organic fertilizer for commercialization.

In collaboration with the other members of the Regional Research, Development and Extension Network (RRDEN), 29 research proposals were evaluated and reviewed. These were then endorsed to the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) for funding.

The four (4) Research Outreach Stations in Taguibo, Butuan City; Del Monte, Talacogon, Agusan del Sur; Trento, Agusan del Sur; and Tagbina, Surigao del Sur continue its maintenance and production activities for rice, corn and other priority commodities such as rubber, coffee, poultry and small ruminants.

Information Support Services

In an effort to keep abreast with information technology for fast and easy acquisition, processing, storage and dissemination of information, the office installed 96 nodes of structured cabling using fiber optic cable backbone with complete network accessories while maintaining 109 connections of Local Area Networks (LAN) with internet connectivity composed of 86 workstations (PCs), 1 CCTV, 2 Routers, 3 Servers, 1 Network Storage, 10 IP Phones and 6 workstation (PCs) for the laboratories in Taguibo, Butuan City.



The office also maintains six (6) information systems at the regional office and the Philippine Animal Health Information System (PhilAHIS) installed at the Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (RADDL), Provincial and City Veterinary Offices.

Agriculture and fishery technologies and other updates are also regularly posted via www.caraga.da.gov.ph, the official website of DA Caraga.

Policy Formulation, Planning and Advocacy Services

Strengthening partnership with other stakeholders especially the Local Government Units (LGUs), other government and non-government institutions, civil society organizations and the farmers and fisherfolks is the key towards achieving sustainable rural development.

Thus, upon assumption of leadership, the Regional Executive Director sits with the provincial chapters of the League of Municipalities in the Philippines (LMP) discussing coordination and collaboration in the implementation of various programs and projects. Quarterly meetings between and among the DA, Provincial/City/Municipal Agriculturists, and Veterinarians, and the Regional Management Committee (RMC) were also undertaken as well as the annual conduct of the Caraga Agricultural Extension Workers (AEW) Congress, a gathering of about 900 AEWs, every month of October.



OIC-RED Mabeza in one of the LMP meetings in Agusan del Sur. Sitting beside her are LMP Agusan del Sur Chapter President Mayor Salimar T. Mondejar of Veruela (left) and Mayor Ambrocio O. Lim of Lapaz.



Usec. Joel S. Rudinas receiving from OIC-RED Mabeza the plaque of appreciation as guest speaker during the 4th AEW Congress last October 20, 2011. Assisting Dir. Mabeza is Dr. Teodora P. Fiel, RTD for Research and Regulation.

farmers and fisherfolks of Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Agusan del Norte. He also visited Surigao del Sur on his second coming on June 12, 2011. A total of P83.67M worth of various projects were turned-over and committed during the visits.

Annual budget preparations as well as concerns on the various programs and projects, especially the new guideline on availing interventions from HVCDP through proposals, were closely coordinated with the

The Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council (RAFC) conducted regular meetings and had passed 32 resolutions in which 24 were acted. It had also actively carried out monitoring activities and conducted AFC congress last January 22, 2011, graced by no less than the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Hon. Proceso J. Alcala.

During his stay in the region, Sec. Alcala also had a close encounter with the officials,



Sec. Alcala greeted the newly elected officers of the Regional MAFC Association of Caraga.

LGUs, NGOs, other agencies and the Regional Development Council (RDC) for adoption and endorsement. The DA sits as vice chair of the RDC-Economic Development Council (EDC) and as member of the regional councils for Infrastructure Development, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (RDRRMC), Peace and Order (RPOC), Intelligence (RICC), Welfare of Children (RCWC), Senior Citizens (RCSC), Disability Affairs (RCDA), Gender and Development (GADCC), Lake Mainit Development Alliance (LMDA) and Caraga Consortium for Agriculture Research and Development (CCARD).



Ms. Jodel A. Tabada of the Planning, Monitoring and Project Development Division discussed the rationale of formulating AFMP 2012-2017 in one of the provincial consultations.

In support to the commitment of the agency to the attainment of targets embodied in the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016, the office facilitated the formulation of the Agriculture and Fishery Modernization Plans (AFMP) in consultation with various stakeholders in the provinces, municipalities and the different DA banner programs, bureaus, attached agencies and corporations incorporating the Value Chain Analysis (VCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DRR-CCA).

Furthermore, to put in place agricultural data disaggregated into municipalities and barangays, the office funded the conduct of the Barangay Agricultural Profiling Survey (BAPS) undertaken by the BAS.

Other Programs and Projects

Mindanao Rural Development Project (MRDP)

Caraga Region attained 98% LGU participation rate encompassing the different components of the program. Rural Infrastructure (RI) has 98% or 40 out of the 41 enrolled municipalities, Community Fund for Agricultural Development (CFAD) attained 95% due to non-availment of two (2)



LGUs while the

Natural Resource Management (NRM) component got 100% participation from the six (6) municipalities.

The 41 municipalities participating the Mindanao Rural Development Program – Adaptable Program Loan II (MRDP-APL2) are distributed in the provinces of Agusan del Norte (9), Agusan del sur (9), Surigao del Norte (10), Surigao del Sur (11) and Dinagat Islands (2).

Under the RI component, submitted proposals for the construction/rehabilitation of farm-to-market roads (FMR) and bridges, irrigation



projects, potable water system (PWS) and other eligible infrastructure projects, totalled to P2.69B surpassing the P945M initial allocation for Caraga. As of December 31, 2011, completed infrastructure projects amounted to P85.568M in which P57.663M was already fully liquidated by the participating LGUs.

In the last quarter of 2011, total savings generated is pegged at P22M derived from the cost difference between the estimated amount and the results of bidding. Out of the savings, four (4) additional sub-projects were enrolled, three (3) of which are FMRs and one (1) PWS.



For the CFAD component, the region has a total fund allocation of P235M in which P160M were already issued with Certificate of Availability of Funds (CAF) by the Municipal Development Fund Office (MDFO). Out of these, P103.5M was already released to the LGUs and P91.02M were already liquidated.

The office has turned over 240 sub-projects, completed 37, on-going implementation of 118 and 205 sub-projects are under preparation stage.

The NRM component involves six (6) municipalities, four (4) sites under the regular program and two (2) sites for the Global Enhancement Facility (GEF).



Being the first to implement NRM, Nasipit, Agusan del Norte accomplished 100% of its sub-projects. During the World Bank Mission visit by Mr. Gilbert Braganza, Nasipit was applauded for its outstanding implementation particularly in the uplands.

Gigaquit, Surigao del Norte had also fully implemented the on-the-ground investment for marine protected area and mangrove rehabilitation projects while riverbank stabilization and agro-forestry sub-projects are still underway.

The program had also released funds to the LGUs of Tago (P2.8M), Cagwait (P354T), Marihatag (P3M) and San Agustin (P1.5M), all of Surigao del Sur. Procurement of seedlings for the agroforestry and mangrove rehabilitation projects are undertaken following the community driven disbursement (CDD) manual.

Caraga Integrated Development Program (CIDP)



The Caraga Integrated Development Program (CIDP), one of the locally-funded projects in Mindanao, has a budget allocation of about P58 M in CY 2011. Out of this, 72% or P42M was allocated for the construction/rehabilitation of 23.5 kilometers farm-to-market roads.

Other interventions provided by the program include 3 packages 3n1 thresher, sheller and husker, 1 unit biomass fed flatbed dryer, 5 single pass rice mill, 1 shredder, 1 package mudboat, thresher with engine, 1 abaca stripping machine, 2 units corn mill and modification of 1 baling machine for coco coir.

It had also conducted expository tour for 27 project partners to sustainable and organic vegetable areas in Benguet and Mountain Province last October 22-27, 2011 and co-sponsored the conduct of Agriculture and Fishery Council and the Agricultural Extension Workers Congresses in January and October, respectively.

Continuous assistance and monitoring of the 17 peoples' organizations (POs) undertaking vermiculture is also conducted while information dissemination on the latest technologies on vegetable, poultry and goat is intensified through the distribution of 500 IEC materials, press releases, video and photo documentations and radio programs.



The participants of the expository trip posed for a souvenir photo with RED Marlyn V. Sta. Catalina (center) of DA-CAR.

Under the continuing funds, CIDP completed and accomplished the following:

- 20.5 kilometers farm-to-market road with 4,574 hectares influence area generating 240 jobs and benefiting 1,289 farmers
- Five (5) irrigation projects serving 508 hectares and 440 individuals
- Eight (8) units vegetable drip irrigation with 130 hectares influence area serving 135 beneficiaries

- One (1) greenhouse with drip irrigation in the Provincial Integrated Demo Farm of Agusan del Norte
- Three (3) units water pump for Uswag Mushroom Producers Cooperative, Antongalon Vegetables Growers and Tungao United Farmers Association, all in Butuan City with 90 beneficiaries
- Eight (8) sites pump irrigation system open source (PISOS) with 129 hectares influence area and 101 beneficiaries in Agusan del Sur.
- One (1) footbridge in La Caridad,, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur
- One (1) abaca stripping machine, 2 units corn mill and modification of 1 baling machine for coco coir
- 29,900 pieces assorted planting materials
- 43 head animals such as Carabao (16), cattle (4) and goat (23)



In support to the stations and laboratory, the program constructed a goat house and provided 1 analytical balance, 1 top loading balance, 1 mini incubator, 12 channel pipettor, 2 vantage wireless weather station and other office equipments and supplies. It had also provided desktop computers with complete accessories for the City Veterinary Office of Butuan City and the Agriculture Offices of Bislig and Surigao City.

Gulayan sa Paaralan Project



Surigao del Norte Governor and RDC Chairperson Sol F. Matugas in one of the GPP Trainings on Vegetable Production.

The DA's mandate, together with the Department of Education (DepEd), is to spearhead the implementation of continuous growing of vegetable in the school gardens for public elementary and high school levels. This is to inculcate in the minds of school children the importance of vegetable both in health and economy.

The project distributed 749 kilograms assorted OPV vegetable seeds which resulted in the establishment of 1,874 gardens in the different schools of the region. Five (5) trainings and two (2) meetings were also conducted participated by the nine (9) divisions of Caraga Region.

Organic Agriculture

For the year 2011, Caraga Region got an allotment amounting to P16,252,000.00 and an additional of P5,918,000.00 for the establishment of Organic Agriculture (OA) trading posts. Another funding downloaded on the last week of December 2011 came from BSWM-OFPP amounting to P2,311,000.00 bringing to a total allocation of P24,481,000.00. As of year ending, the office attained 33% fund utilization.

In coordination with the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), the OA Statistics/Inventory and Benchmarking was conducted. Also the DA-RFU-13 through the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Division (RAFID) & IT Section initiated the enhancement of DA website integrating the OA concept.

It has also coordinated with the Research Division through the Research and Development Extension Network (RDEN) in the conduct of a writeshop in packaging 19 research proposals which were endorsed to the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR).

For wider advocacy and information dissemination, the DA-RFU-13 through the RAFID and provincial/city farmcasters, has integrated in their



Organic Agriculture Focal Person Rebecca R. Atega discussed the salient features of Republic Act 10068 during the provincial consultation in Surigao del Norte.



radio
airing/broa
dcasts,

several topics about organic agriculture highlighting RA 10068 and the Philippine National Standards for OA. It has also facilitated the translation of 2,000 copies IEC materials into vernacular particularly the technologies on natural inputs production and Nature Farming Technology System (NFTS).

To broaden the spectrum of knowledge, the Caraga Organic Focal Person and the rest of the technical working group (TWG) had participated various forum / briefings / meetings and trainings on OA including the 8th National Organic Agriculture Congress held last November 8-11, 2011 in Tarlac City;



Former DA Secretary and Free Farmers Federation (FFF) National President Leonardo Q. Montemayor (3rd from right) visited the Agusan del Sur FFF Council.

attended series of TOT with Agricultural Training Institute, BAR consultation in Tagaytay and conducted planning workshop for CY 2012.

It has also conducted briefing with RMC and RAFC about organic agriculture.

As a manifestation of their support and the will to counterpart, the Governors and Mayors have issued Special Orders (SO) designating their provincial and city focal persons. To date, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur, Butuan City, Surigao City, Bislig City and the

municipalities of San Agustin in Surigao del Sur; Loreto, Talacogon, and Sibagat in Agusan del Sur; Placer, Sta. Monica, Alegria, Gigaquit and San Benito in Surigao del Norte have already formed their provincial/city/municipal technical committees through an executive order /ordinance.

Also, the region received 105 proposals on information and advocacy, research, policy and market related endeavours for OA.

Support to Emergency and Livelihood Assistance Program (SELAP)

The Support to Emergency and Livelihood Assistance Program has been terminated last 2009. However, the engineering group of the office continues to monitor carry over targets especially the construction of Navarro-Malinao FMR in Tubajon, Province of Dinagat Islands. The project was already completed and was turned-over to the LGU.



Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM)



The Bureau of Soils and Water Management have directly downloaded funds to the LGUs for their irrigation projects.

There were two (2) projects completed this year, the Labnig Pump Irrigation Project System in Talacogon and the Cabunog Communal Irrigation System in Veruela, both in Agusan del Sur. A total of 21 sets of pump and engine were also distributed to the different farmer beneficiaries of Caraga. These facilities will irrigate a total of 158 hectares.

Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech)

Various pre and post harvest facilities from the Philippine Center for Post Harvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) were also implemented in tandem with the regional office.

Under the Rice Mechanization Program, 25 units rice drum seeder were already delivered and two (2) farmers' organizations were also issued with Notice to Commence Work for the construction of their multi-purpose drying pavement (MPDP).

Other farm equipments are also offered by PhilMech on a first come, first serve basis with 85-15% financing scheme.



National Convergence Initiatives (NCI)



OIC-RED Mabeza (in blue dress) and other participants took center stage during the mini fashion show of the Agrikultura Trade Fair.

The National Convergence Initiatives is a concerted effort of the three (3) leading rural development agencies: Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in facilitating the convergence of the agency's programs and resources to maximize impact in the countryside.

Various consultations and meetings were conducted in preparation for the launching of the pilot Local Convergence Agro-Enterprise Cluster (LCAEC) in Tubay, Jabonga, Kitcharao

and Santiago (TUJAKITSAN), Agusan del Norte.

In tandem with DAR and DENR offices in Caraga, the region participated the Agrikultura Trade Fair last June 24-26, 2011 at SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. The fair featured fresh and processed agri-fishery products, clothings and handicrafts, packaging materials, furniture, home furnishing and accessories from the ARBs, community-based organizations, producers and manufacturers.



Aside from showcasing the products gained from "ridge to reef", the trade fair also facilitated the Agribusiness Investment Forum, "Teatro

Kalikasan” for environmental awareness, and the “Habi at Gawa”, a mini fashion show featuring the regional heads and employees of the three (3) agencies and 2011 Philippine’s Miss Earth Athena Mae Imperial.

Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF)



As of December 31, 2011, five (5) project proposals amounting to P62.2M were endorsed to the National Technical Committee (NTC) for evaluation while one (1) project was endorsed for the release of first tranche.

The Integrated Grains Center of SSPSC-TARVIA Multi Purpose Cooperative was also revalidated and endorsed for the release of the remaining P2M intended for the rice mill.

In the continuous effort to promote agriculture and fishery courses, a total of 33 students in the different colleges and universities of the region were granted with scholarship under ACEF.

Support to Rural Women and Youth

The office facilitated the conduct and advocacy on Basic Organic Farming to selected officers and members of the Rural Improvement Clubs (RIC) in Surigao del Norte. They were organized as advocates for organic farming that will initiate activities on backyard organic vegetable production.



To encourage and pursue the interest of the



youth to venture into agriculture, a total of 25 livelihood project proposals from the different 4H clubs in the region were validated. The office also facilitated the nomination and sending of Mr. Al Polinar of Agusan del Sur to the Young Filipino Farmer Program in Japan (YFFTPJ) for a 10-month long training. Two young farmers were also assisted as potential nominees for the 2012 YFFTPJ.

As member of the Gender and Development Coordinating Committee (GADCC), the office participated the celebration of the 2011 Women’s Month last March dubbed as “Kalandrakas sa Kababaihan Part VII”. It was highlighted by the recognition of Outstanding Rural Women of Caraga Region and the conduct of sportsfest as culminating activity.

A forum on the Magna Carta for Women for DA employees was also held with Atty. Marilyn Pintor, Regional Director of the Commission on Human Rights and Chairperson of GADCC- Caraga, as the resource speaker.

The office also actively participated the observance of the 18-Day Campaign Against Violence on Women and Children on November 2011.



Livelihood Enhancement for Agricultural Development (LEAD)



Although the Livelihood Enhancement for Agricultural Development (LEAD) had been terminated, the office continued its support to the organized farmers' associations and rural women groups through the roll-over funds collected from the repayments of LEAD assisted projects. A total of P240, 000.00 had been released to support eight (8) projects on swine, rootcrops and vegetable production.

Organizational Strengthening and NGO/PO Accreditation

Recognizing the roles of peoples' organizations (POs), the office is intensifying efforts to strengthen the industry associations such as the Oil Palm Council, Rice Seed Growers, Vegetable Growers, Caraga Swine Industry (CARSI) and initiated the organizational meeting of Soybean Farmers as well as the Federation of Rubber Growers in Caraga.



The regional office had also facilitated the accreditation of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) as partners in pursuing agricultural development in the region. As of December 2011, five (5) NGOs were already accredited, to wit:

1. Peoples Alternative Center for Environment and Sectoral Services (PACCESS), Inc. in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur
2. Group of Advocates for Sustainable Agriculture (GASA) in Tandag City, Surigao del Sur
3. Green Global Agri-Ventures Multi Resources Corporation in Butuan City
4. Kalambuan Foundation, Inc. in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur
5. Agusanon Para sa Bag-ong Pilipino, Inc (Agus Pinoy) in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur

Gawad Saka and Agri-Pinoy Rice Achievers Award

Highlighting the Farm Family Forum, jointly conducted by DA and ATI last April 26-27, 2011, was the awarding of the 2011 Regional Gawad Saka Awardees namely: Anna Bel M. Salino of Santiago, Agusan del Norte as Outstanding Agri-Entrepreneur, Mr. Felix P. Plaza, Jr. of Lingig, Surigao del Sur as Outstanding Small Animal Raiser and Mr. Mario E. Dela Cruz of Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte as Outstanding High Value Commercial Crops Farmer. Special citations were also given to San Isidro Upland Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SIUFMULCO) of Santiago, Agusan del Norte and JCA Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative (JARBEMCO) of Bayugan, Agusan del Sur as small farmers' associations, City Agriculture and Fishery Council (CAFC) of Surigao City and Mr. Godofredo Jagonus of Talacogon, Agusan del Sur as integrated rice farmer.



The awardees received plaque of appreciation and cash award of P20, 000 while special citations received P5,000 each. Provincial Gawad Saka Coordinators also received cash. Mr. Plaza and Ms. Salino were both declared as National Gawad Saka Finalists.

On the other hand, the 2011 Search for Agri-Pinoy Rice Achievers' Awards is geared towards encouraging the LGUs, AEWs and irrigators' associations (IAs) to work hand in hand in achieving rice self sufficiency by 2013.



Regional winners were Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur for the province level; Trento, Agusan del Sur with Mr. Alfred A. Gimang and Butuan City with Ms. Gertrudes S. Fortun for the municipal level and the AEWs. The Boan Barangay Irrigation Development Association (Boan BIDA) of Rosario, Agusan del Sur and West Bayugan-Maygatasan-Sta. Irene Irrigators' Association (WEBAMSI) of Bayugan, Agusan del Sur also

made it as outstanding IAs for the Communal Irrigation System (CIS) and National Irrigation System (NIS), respectively.

The winners received P25, 000 for the province, P15, 000 for the municipality, P5, 000 for the AEWs and P10, 000 for the IAs. They were also endorsed to the national committee for the nationwide competition.

Other Activities

Aside from performing its mandate, the office took time to participate in various community activities as well as in strengthening the ties between and among the DA management and the rank and file.

During the celebration of the Balanghai Festival in Butuan City last May 19, 2011, the office participated the theatre float parade competition where it bagged the grand prize and the most colourful float award. The DA Caraga received a total of P115, 000.00 cash prize.



The Clean Ground, Zero Waste Program as well as the planting of trees was also adopted by the office in support to the initiative of LGU Butuan. Quarterly planting of trees in the DA stations will be undertaken starting first quarter of 2012.



To foster camaraderie among DA employees, a family day was conducted last September 23-24, 2011 spearheaded by the officers of the Department of Agriculture Employees Association (DAEA) with the full support of the DA Management.



Regular mini programs every first Monday of the month as well as management committee meetings were also undertaken to disseminate information and updates as well as provide venue for the management

and employees to discuss issues and concerns.



The office also facilitated the regular quarterly meetings of the Regional Management Committee (RMC) wherein DA management and heads of the various bureaus, attached agencies and corporations discuss plans and policies in program implementation.

Also, towards the end of the year, a teambuilding exercise with a touch of social graces was also done. The activity, entitled “Beyond and Over the Notions of Division: A Team Building Program for DA”, was conducted to motivate and boost the morale of employees which will redound to increased performance and productivity in the workplace at all levels in the organization. It was conducted in four (4) batches with a total of 275 participants composed of all regular employees and contract service workers.



The DA Caraga Christmas Party celebration last December 22, 2011 was full of fun and surprises. With the theme “Pasko sa Rancho”, the Kwarto Kantos (PMPDD, Crops, AMAD and



RAED) emerged as the winner for the best barn competition while the AdFORD (Admin, Finance, and ORD) bagged the first place for the best Christmas presentation. Other teams who competed for the different contests were the Technospy (Research Division), and COLIRRA (COA, Livestock, RBO, RAFID and Regulatory).

Engr. Rene Q. Morales and Ms. Euvie A. de Gracia, both from the Engineering Division, were adjudged as best in cowboy and cowgirl attire.

Adding hype to the party was the raffle draw spearheaded by the DA Caraga Employees Cooperative (DACEC) and the announcement of winners of The Biggest Loser, DA Edition, where Mr. Belie B. Alegado bested 40 other participants.

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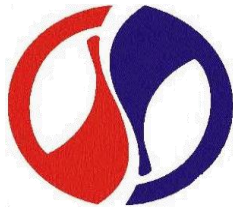
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