MESSAGE

The year 2012 is indeed a time of hard work and challenges for the whole DA-RFU team and all the stakeholders of the agriculture and fishery sector in Caraga Region.

Driven by the agency's vision and mission of empowering rural communities to contribute to the attainment of poverty reduction, social justice and equity and sustainable economic growth, we never limit ourselves from extending hands to those who believe that agriculture feeds the society and is vital to the fulfillment of everyone's goal.



The region remains steadfast in upholding its thrusts and priorities

as contained in the Regional Development Plan for 2011-2016. Concretizing this endeavor is the growth of agriculture in 2012, which managed to increase by 0.65 percent over last year's output and contributing 2.33 percent to the over-all agricultural production of the country. Minimal as it may seem, it brings honor to the sector, which have been confronted with disruption, at the same time challenge to sustain the positive performance anchored on strong collaboration with the Local Government Units (LGUs), national government agencies, private sectors and other stakeholders.

Caraga was recognized as a top performer in the implementation of the Organic Agriculture Program as it continues to promote sustainable agriculture in the region. This manifests the aggressiveness and dedication of the people behind this new agenda. In addition, people from other places had appreciated the beauty of Caraga and its people through hosting various regional and national activities. These events have developed and enhanced the versatility and dynamism of the region's work force in the execution of diverse tasks. While it is said that "pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work", we continue to nourish our men and women in the RFU to perform not for perfection but for excellence.

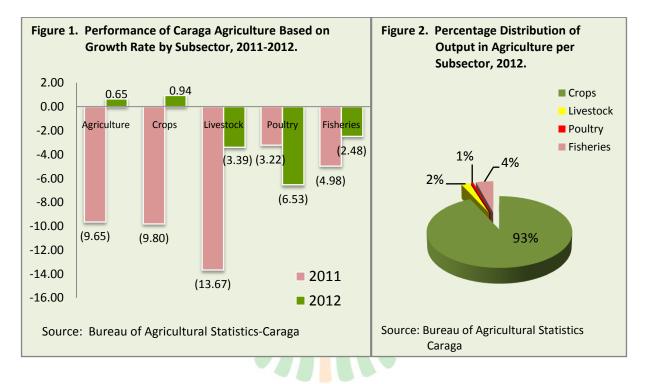
As another year unfolds, we commit to do our share in achieving a more productive 2013. To God be the glory!

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EDNA M. MABEZA, Ph.D. OIC-Regional Executive Director

PERFORMANCE OF THE SECTOR

Agriculture outputs in Caraga improved by 0.65 percent this year 2012 as compared to the previous year (Figure 1). The crops subsector, which contributed 93 percent to the total agricultural production (Figure 2), grew by 0.94 percent while livestock, poultry and fisheries subsector dropped by 3.39 percent, 6.53 percent and 2.48 percent, respectively (Figure 1). At current prices, the value of agricultural production amounted to 30.3 billion, which is lower by 5.6 percent as compared to 2011 (Table 1).



From the crops subsector, palay, corn, coconut, banana, pineapple, mango, camote, rubber and vegetables posted positive growth (Table 1). Other priority crop of the region such as coffee and cassava declined. Gross value of the crops production totaled to 19,520.15 million, which is lower from the 2011 level by 6.41 percent (Table 1).

The increase in rice production was attributed to increase in area in the provinces of Agusan del Sur, Surigaodel Sur and Agusan del Norte and increase in productivityregion wide. The increase in area was attributed to availability of irrigation water and sufficient rain, which favored planting on rainfed areas. Also, farm to market roads constructed in previous years attributed to increase in opening of rainfed areas. The increase in yield was attributed to sufficient water supply and usage of high yielding varieties.

Positive growth for corn was primarily driven by white corn. The increase in production was attributed to increase in area in the provinces of Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands and Surigaodel Sur and increase in productivity. The increase in area was brought

about by sufficient rains, whichfavoredplanting activities especially in the first quarter of the year, which push the production in the second quarter. The increase in yield was attributed to lesser pests, adequate rains and usage of high yielding varieties especially GMOs for yellow corn.

Agusandel Sur remains as the top producer of palay and corn in the region. It contributes 51% of the total production for palay and 79% of the total production for corn.

	Volume of Production (in thousand metric tons)			Value at Current Price		
Commodities					in million pesos)	
	2011	2012P	% Change	2011	2012P	% Change
TOTAL	2,194.28	2,208.45	0.65	32,065.59	30,268.67	(5.60)
Crops	2,035.56	2,054.69	0.94	20,856.84	19,520.15	(6.41)
Palay	417.00	469.21	12.52	5,996.42	7,056.84	17.68
Corn	75.68	89.52	18.28	921.79	1,048.16	13.71
Coconut	879.40	880.88	0.17	6,174.39	4,805.27	(22.17)
Sugarcane	0.00	0.00	(11.12)	0.00	0.00	(28.18)
Banana	204.14	218.80	7.18	1,524.93	1,444.92	(5.25)
Pineapple	4.14	4.65	12.38	47.11	48.80	3.60
Coffee	2.01	1.79	(10.99)	123.26	112.69	(8.57)
Mango	12.16	12.61	3.70	281.54	385.89	37.06
Tobacco	0.00	0.00	(4.38)	0.21	0.21	1.87
Abaca	6.03	5.97	(1.08)	228.11	286.86	25.75
Calamansi	4.81	4.31	(10.35)	75.58	92.06	21.81
Cassava	23.61	20.10	(14.86)	144.96	141.71	(2.24)
Camote	27.91	27.94	0.11	294.16	346.72	17.87
Rubber	15.25	16.61	8.94	1,067.34	835.19	(21.75)
Vegetables	3.38	3.86	14.36	74.00	70.65	(4.53)
Peanut	0.09	0.10	12.52	3.29	3.99	21.17
Mongo	0.12	0.16	40.84	6.55	7.88	20.23
Tomato	0.18	0.21	18.89	2.85	3.63	27.41
Cabbage	0.02	0.02	18.48	0.37	0.47	26.61
Eggplant	2.97	3.36	13.09	60.94	54.68	(10.26)
Others	360.06	298.44	(17.11)	3,903.05	2,844.17	(27.13)
Livestock	48.35	46.71	(3.39)	4,357.90	4,162.26	(4.49)
Carabao	3.96	3.50	(11.54)	262.65	238.24	(9.30)
Cattle	1.37	1.44	4.95	99.19	109.10	9.99
Hog	41.85	40.65	(2.87)	3,883.54	3,707.28	(4.54)
Goat	1.16	1.11	(4.21)	112.52	107.65	(4.33)
Poultry	14.22	13.29	(6.53)	1,273.71	1,193.00	(6.34)
Chicken	11.26	10.02	(11.01)	995.43	885.28	(11.07)
Duck	0.18	0.18	(1.65)	14.01	14.36	2.52
Chicken Eggs	2.31	2.50	8.41	226.52	242.12	6.89
Duck Eggs	0.47	0.59	25.32	37.74	51.24	35.78
Fisheries	96.15	93.77	(2.48)	5,577.14	5,393.26	(3.30)
Commercial	6.06	5.20	(14.27)	405.73	373.15	(8.03)
Municipal	66.60	64.10	(3.76)	4,570.14	4,395.58	(3.82)
Aquaculture	23.49	24.47	4.18	601.27	624.53	3.87

Table 1. Volume and Value of Production in Agric	ulture. CaragA Region. Jan-Dec 2011-2012.

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Source: Bureau of Agricultural Statistics-Caraga

For high value commercial crops, increase in banana production was attributed to more bearing hills harvested in expansion areas tied up with Celebes Agricultural Corporationand Dole Philippines.Increase in rubber production was attributed to the increase in number of tapable trees. For pineapple, increase in production was attributed to increase in plantings at Surigao City and Surigao del Norte. Camote production increase was due to expansion of areas especially in Agusan del Sur given with camote cuttings from PhilRootcrops through the High Value Commercial Crops Development Program (HVCDP).For vegetables, increase in production is due to public demandwith awareness on its health benefits,DA's production supportgiven to farmers through the Local Government Units(LGUs) and the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program (GPP), which is tied up with the Department of Education (DepEd) for public elementary and high schools. Eggplant in Agusan del Sur was shipped to Manila which encouraged farmers to increase plantings. Decreases in production of other crops were due to rejuvenation of coffee trees, and lesser area harvested.

For the livestock subsector, only cattle production posted positive growth by 4.95 percent while carabao, hog and goat got negative outputs by 11.54 percent, 2.87 percent, and 4.21 percent, respectively. At current prices, the subsector gross value totaled to 4,162.26 million, which is lower by 4.49 percent from 2011 level (Table 1).

The increase in cattle production was attributed to increase in population backed-up with massive artificial insemination through Genetic Improvement Program (GIP) and regular animal health program implementation regionwide. The decrease in carabao, hog and goat production was due to high extraction rate with low animal production.

For the poultry subsector, chicken and duck eggs posted a positive growth by 8.41 and 25.32 percent while chicken and duck meat posted a negative output by 11.01 and 1.65 percent, respectively. The subsector got a gross value of 1,193 million, which is lower by 6.34 percent from the previous year (Table 1).

Broiler and native chicken production contributed to the over-all decrease in poultry production. Drop in broiler output was attributed by lesser disposals due to lesser stocks delivered by the contracting companies. Drop in duck production was brought about by lesser disposals from backyard raisers and lesser culling in commercial farms. The increased in chicken egg production was brought about by increased number of laying flocks with higher egg-laying efficiency and duck egg production increase was attributed by increased number of duck layers. For the fishery subsector, the positive growth on the aquaculture production of 4.18 percent was dragged down by the commercial and municipal fish catch by 14.27 percent and 3.76 percent (Table 1). The increase in aquaculture production was mainly attributed from the seaweeds production, wherein there is an increase in area harvested. More farmers are encouraged to plant due to the dispersal of propagules and other inputs by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).In addition, there was lesser occurrence of ice ice.

PRODUCTION SUPPORT SERVICES

Rice Program

A total area of 155,041 hectares planted with different varieties in all ecosystems produced an average yield of 3.03mt/ha, which is much higher compared to the previous years. This was attributed by various Location Specific Interventions (LSI) distributed to farmers thru LGUs.



For Community-based Seed Bank (CSB), the region allotted an amount for the



construction of two units CSB at Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur and Lanuza, Surigao del Sur, and the rehabilitation of another two units in Tandag City, Surigao del Sur and Antongalon, Butuan City. For the distribution of seeds and other LSI, about 344 bags of registered seeds (RS) were duly delivered and distributed in support for the CSB. Also, 5,469 bags of organic fertilizers and 23,107 sachets of rodenticides were distributed in support to

the program including the upland rice production. Another intervention of 5,232 bags certified seeds (CS) under the Buffer Seeds Stocking Program were distributed in five provinces of Caraga Region in those damage-affected areas brought by pests and typhoon.

Corn Program

Under the Corn Program, the RFU had provided 250 bags of quality registered OPV corn seeds to farmers in areas whose main staple is white corn.For rehabilitation assistance, a total of 670 bags of quality hybrid and OPV corn seeds were distributed to assist farmers who are victims of tropical storm Pablo, particularly in the Province of Agusan del Sur.

Eighty soil samples were collected andanalyzed for soil fertility mapping. Also, balanced fertilizer strategy (Tipid-Abono) was conducted in six technology demonstration sites.

Two units of farm tractors, through counterpart-funding arrangement with LGUs/cooperatives/farmer associations were distributed under theProgram.



As support to cassava production,

adaptation trials in three stations were conducted for the varieties being sourced out from

PhilRootcrops Center in Visca, Baybay City. Such varieties will be distributed to cassava farmers whenever found to have promising production performance.

The Program also supported the operation of one Trichogramma laboratory in Tandag City, which is being managed by the Provincial Local Government of Surigao del Sur and has conducted sixteen sites of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) through the LGU, and Farmer-based Teams.



High Value Crops Development Program



The High Value Crops Development Program maintains the following priority commodities in the region, as such: lowland and indigenous vegetables; regional fruits (mangosteen, lanzones, rambutan and mango); industrial crops (abaca, coffee, cacao, and rubber). Also, banana and root crops (sweet potato, gabi and yam) were included in its priorities to strongly support the Food Staples Sufficiency Program (FSSP).

The Program was able to increase and expand the area planted of prioritycommodities

to 504 hectares. The initial gains were as follows: 300 hectares planted withrubber, 66 hectares planted with coffee, 30 hectares planted with abaca, 100 hectares planted with vegetables, 5 hectares planted with banana and 3 hectares planted with camote.

Three hundred fifty kilograms of assorted hybrid vegetable seeds were distributed. This was coupled with the distribution of 37,500 pieces of malunggay seedlings to address the malnutrition through the utilization of indigenous vegetables. Also, under the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program, 250 school gardens were established.

Regional fruits identified for 2012were rambutan and lanzones. With this, a total of 20,000 pieces of planting materialswere distributed as intercrop for the Rubber-Based Farming System (RBFS) and some were apportioned in support to the National Greening Program (NGP). For the industrial crops, 101,000 pieces of Robusta Coffee; 50,000 pieces of cacao; 88,000 pieces of rubber; and 50,000 pieces of abaca were distributed and planted.

Other supports to production of high value crops include the distribution of 2 units hand tractor, 1 unit shredder, 1 unit cultivator, 163 units of knapsack sprayers and 28 heads of carabao as draft animals.



Livestock Program

The Livestock Animal Health Programdistributed atotal of 50,591 doses of various veterinary drugs and 219,115 doses of various vaccines amounting to Php3million to LGU counterparts.



Sero-surveillance, disease investigations and blood sampling were regularly conducted by Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (RADDL) especially on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Avian Influenza, Surra, Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE) and Newcastle Disease.The laboratory was able to accomplish 3,630 various examinations serving 2,381 clients. Moreover, Regional Feed Analytical Laboratory (RFAL) had analyzed 492 samples and served 109 clients in relation to the implementation of R.A. 1556 or Feed Law and to ensure safety of feeds that were being sold in the market.

For the operation of production centers, the Program maintained the four production centers, theResearch Outreach Stations (ROS) Taguibo, Talacogon andTagbina, and RIARC Trento. These centers maintained 32 heads goat, 60 heads sheep, 7 heads swine and 108 heads chicken as breeders. Offspring produced were 23 heads goat, 44 heads sheep, 89 heads swine and 1,720 heads chicken. Sixty seven percentof these produced animals were



distributed to the LGU breeding centers and farmer organizations that are interested to engage in livestock production, while some were being sold to farmers at a very reasonable price to generate operational funds for project sustainability. A total of 83 farmers, 17 LGUs and organizations benefited from this project.

Under the Unified Artificial Insemination Program (UNAIP), the program have distributed 2,187 pieces of semen straw of large and smallruminants and 670 liters of Liquid



Nitrogen (LN2). There were 2,145 heads of large and small which ruminants were inseminated. Majority of these were carabaos.Also, other AI logistics were given to AI technicians such as: 36 handy coolers,16 head lamps, 16 strawsheets case with AI gun, 16 speculums and 1 AI gun.

For the Swine Restocking Program, there were 11 heads of boar and 22 heads gilt repayment collected and re-dispersed to the next in line recipients. Furthermore, with the request of Caraga Swine Industry (CARSI) members, Swine Re-stocking Program allocated an additional 10 heads of grand parent (GP) gilt to selected members with total intervention amounting to Php400 thousand.

In addition, a new program, the Philippine Native Animals Development (PNAD) was implemented in the region. Program orientations were conducted in every province. A regionwide assessment of the current status of domesticated native animals genetic resources and

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a morphological characterization of native food animals based on Food and Agriculture (FAO) guidelines were also conducted.

Organic Agriculture Program

Driven by its vision where at least 5 percent of the total agricultural areas be converted to organic farming,OA Program distributed 5,000 kg of organic rice seeds, 6,000 kg of organic OPV corn seeds, 3,500



A lady farmer reading a flyer about Organic Agriculture Program

kg of organic vegetable seeds, and 550 bags of organic granular and foliar fertilizer to its beneficiaries.

A number of LGUs and NGOs are now producing good quality of natural inputs such as *vermi compost*. These include the LGUs of San Agustin, Surigao del Sur; Mainit, Surigao del Norte; Veruela, Esperanza and La Paz, Agusan del Sur; RTR, Buenavista, Nasipit, and Butuan City, Agusan del Norte; and one NGO—Agus-Pinoy in Talacogon, Agusan del Sur.

The OA also supported the research stations for maintainance and production activities for rice, corn and other priority commodities such as rubber, coffee, poultry and small ruminants. Also, construction for the OA funded room expansion of the Regional Soils Testing Laboratory (RSTL) for organic-related analysis is ongoing.

IRRIGATIONDEVELOPMENT SERVICES

In view of the fact that water plays a vital role tocrop production, a total amount of Php6.655 million for 6 units small farm reservoir (SFR), 1 sitespring development, and 1 site for small water impounding project (SWIP)were established, and 51,100 meters of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipes were distributed. These HDPE Pipes serve as channel of water from water source to production area.



MARKET DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



Under the Market Development Services, the Agribusiness and Marketing Division (AMAD) Assistance facilitatedmarket matching and contract arrangements in growing the farm clusters, and conductedtrade and farm machinery fairs and exhibits. They also facilitated series of meetings and consultations for New Britain Palm Oil, Limited (NBPOL), an investor for oil palm, with LGUs and other stakeholders, and assisted them during its aerial survey in the provinces of Agusan del

Sur and Surigao del Sur to look for potential areas for oil palm plantation.

Several fora and consultation meetings like Oil Palm Investment Forum, National Food Authority (NFA) Farmers-Producers Forum, Soybean Investment Forum, and consultation meetings on Production and Marketing Analysis System (PMAS) were conducted. Furthermore, they also conducted trainings on cost and value chain analysis, and market research writeshop to assess investment opportunities on priority commodities.

For the issuance of Certificate of Eligibility (EO 376), the DA RFU XIII has issued such certificate to Agusan Plantations, Inc. and AGUMILL Philippines, Inc.at Trento, Agusan del Sur; and Filipinas Palm Oil Plantations, Inc.at Rosario, Agusan del Sur.



In support to Organic Agriculture Program, an Organic Trading Post (OTP) in RTR, Agusan del Norte and Butuan City were established. Investment project scanning was facilitated in the municipalities of Alegria, Bacuag, Gigaquit and Placer, Surigao del Norte with the presence of Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (AMAS) personnel. Weekly price monitoring for rice, corn, vegetables and livestock products was regularly conducted.Stakeholder consultation meeting for goat

raisers, processors and other government agencieswas also conducted.

Food Terminal

To provide additional market outlets for small farmers and fisherfolks, stabilize prices, and provide employment to the rural folks, eight Barangay Food Terminals (BFTs) were launched and established for the year withsix sites in Surigao del Sur and two sites in



Agusan del Norte. Aside from this, twelve BFTs were strengthened, which received an enhancement fund of Php 70,000.00 each.

Trade Fairs

The AMAD led the participation of the RFU to the several trade fairs and exhibits such as the10th National Vegetable Congressheld in Butuan City; the Agrilink/Foodlink/Aqualink 2012; the Philippine Food Expo in Pasay City; the P4MP National Conventionin Almont Inland Resort, Butuan City; the 2nd Vis-Min Fruit and Vegetable Marketing Encounter at Cebu City; and the 17th Caraga Founding Anniversary last 21-23 February 2012, in which a gross sales of Php 104,77.00 was generated.

Further, three entrepreneurs/exhibitors from the province of Agusan del Sur also participated during the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asian Growth Area and Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT) Consumer Fair last November 28-December 4, 2012 in Melaka, Malaysia. The team generated a total sales of Php 617,394.00 from its displays of coco sugar, calamansi concentrate and corn coffee.





CREDIT FACILITATION SERVICES

For credit facilitation, AMAD has linkedthree (3)cacao producer cooperatives in Rosario and Bayugan City, Agusan delSur to Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP). Theyalso facilitated credit linkage with the Oil Palm Development Project (OPDP) of the Federation of Agusan del Sur Cooperatives for its 1,000 hectares of oil palm plantation with loanable amountat Php 125,000.00 per hectare and has been approved by LBP recently.

OTHER INFRA AND POSTHARVEST DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

With the total target of Php201 million farm-to-market road (FMR) projects, only

53.7Mworth of projectsreleasedwithin the year and were implemented covering nine (9) sites in the following locations: Butuan City, Nasipit and Buenavista, Agusan del Norte; San Francisco, Agusan del Sur; and Del Carmen, Dapa (2 sites), San Isidro and Gigaquit of Surigao del Norte.

The Rice Program has allocated aroundPhp 88.5 millionfor the procurement



of various pre andpost-harvest facilities and equipment. A total of 19units rice thresher, 13 units hand tractor, and 2 units 4-wheel drive farm tractor were already distributed to farmer

cooperatives who provided 15 percent cash counterpart. There were also 20 units flatbed dryers installed and on-going construction for other 7sites. For multi-purpose drying pavement (MPDP), four sites havebeen completed while constructions of 37 sites wereon-going.



Under the Corn Program, one unit 3in1 corn sheller was distributed in Gen. Luna, Surigao del Norte. In addition, two sites Village Type Corn Processing Centerhave been established at Tiniwisan, Butuan City with San Gabriel Multi-Purpose Cooperative and in Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte with LGU as the cooperator.

For HVCDP, processing equipment was given emphasis.Four units of abaca stripping machines were granted to LGU Prosperidad, Mikit Women's Association, San Jose Abaca Planters Association (SJAPA) and Agusan Resettlement Peoples Organization Federation

(ARPOFED) of LGU Talacogon, Agusan del Sur. Also, two units rootcrop processing facility for Surigao City, two units banana chipper for Placer, Surigao del Norte and Guapz Food Product, Bayugan City were distributed. The five coffee/cacao dryers were also given to Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte; Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur; LGUs of Bislig City, Tagbina and Provincial Agriculture Office of Surigao del Sur.

Moreover, six units of multi-commodity solar dryer are due for delivery to the Provincial



Agriculture Office of Surigao del Sur; Rider Integrated Rural Development for Environment

and Reconstruction (RIDER, Inc.) of Rosario, Agusan del Sur; LGU San Francisco and ARPOFED in Talacogon of Agusan del Sur; Marjeck Food Product, and Art Tribe Food and Crafts of Butuan City.In addition, one vegetable packer is for delivery to Carmen, Agusan del Norte.

For OA program, 20 units of farm equipment such as shredder, mixer, sap extractor machine and vermi separator have been provided to its proponents in different parts of the region and 12 sites of vermi beds with sheds were established. The Program has also assisted in the establishment of bio-fertilizer plant of Agus-Pinoy, Inc. in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur.

In continuous promotion of Waste Management Program, sevenTubular Polyethylene Digester (TPED)were installed, and six were rehabilitated. The DA thru the Livestock Program has also assisted in the establishment of two Indian-type concrete Biogas in Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte and Carrascal, Surigao del Sur.



EXTENSION SUPPORT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES

For Rice Program, this component contributed meaningfully in empowering of farmers through the conduct of 100 sites of Farmer Field School (FFS), one School on the Air Program,13Technology Demonstration (TD) on Organic Rice Production System, 10 sites TD on Inbred Production forRainfed and Low Yielding Irrigated Areas, and 10 sites for TD on Upland Rice-based Crop Rotation.



On the other hand, for the Corn Program, FFSon corn, farm 19 4 mechanizationtrainings and 6 other trainings and technical briefings were conducted during the year. Training of Trainers (TOT) on Cassava Production and Postharvest Technologies was also conducted to update the Agriculture Extension Workers (AEWs) on latest technology particularly on mass propagation using the 2-node cuttings and knowledge on



the different varieties that has higher yield potentialover the local varieties. Moreover, Trainings on Geographic Information System (GIS) and on how to use Global Positioning System (GPS) wasdone to enable respective DA projects be visualized in maps aside from conventionally tabular format.



Under the Livestock Program, 15 trainings were conducted benefiting 272 livestock technicians and 132 farmers and meat processors. Three educational tours, Lakbay-Aral, were also conducted visiting Bacolod City, Davao City and Bohol Province. The project of interest were livestock organic farming, meat laboratories and processing plants and AAA slaughter houses and Barangay Livestock Aide (BALA) Program, respectively. These were participated in

by 22 DA-XIII Technical Staff, 16 Animal Product and By-Product Utilization (APBPU) Coordinators and 26 Outstanding Livestock AEWs across the region.

For program coordination and support activities, there were 4 workshops, 9 consultations and 15 meetings conducted to strengthen the linkages and coordination with the livestock stakeholders. The Program also rendered 14 technical assistance with 160 clienteles.

OA Program supported the establishment of Integrated Diversified Organic Farming System (IDIOFS) of Agus-Pinoy in Talacogon, Agusan del Sur; the techno demo atROSTagbina;

and the mushroom production in Esperanza, Agusan del Sur and Butuan City.

Back to back, successive and simultaneous trainings, meetings, symposia and fora were conducted. Part of the advocacy is the exposure of the stakeholders and Local Technical Committee (LTCs) to organic agriculture leading sites in Mindanao through educational tour. Also, the region



was able to send 90 participants during the National Organic Agriculture Congress which was held in Cebu City.



INFORMATION SUPPORT SERVICES



Development and Implementation of Information Technology System (ITS) was operationalized in support to the information and data requirements for DA program management and implementation. The Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Division (RAFID) has accomplished printing of around 9,000 information, education, and communication (IEC) materials, which were distributed to LGUs and walk-in clients in

support to the different Banner Programs (Rice, Corn, Livestock, HVCD and OA). These include manuals, brochures, leaflets, posters, and tarpaulins.

Radio and TV plugging and infomercials were also aired having coordinated with radio stations and local media. One video plugging was aired over TV5, PECBC and ABS- CBN stations promoting responsible rice consumption and other staples.

REGULATORY SERVICES

While the diplomatic tension between China and the Philippines on the Panatag Shoal remained volatile, China remained the Philippines' number one economic partner as far as the export of lateritic nickel ore of the region is concerned. This year, foreign cargo vessels reached391.

While the mining industry strives to hit their export targets for the year, the review on the Mining Act during the first quarter slowed down the entry of foreign investor on mining in the region.

Imported commodities are limited to oil palm seeds (4 shipments for the entire year with a total quantity of 213,220 pieces from Indonesia, Thailand and Papua New Guinea);round logs (1 shipment with a volume of 4,817.90 metric tons from Solomon Islands); and rice (1

shipment with 5,000 metric tons from Vietnam).

Banana export had maximized its production due to high demand in Japanese market, despite the recently found disease in banana, which is the Panama Wilt. Abaca fiber export, on the other hand, was not able to meet the target due to production problems. Wood product export also fluctuates because documentation and



treatment will have to be done in Cagayan de Oro City. However, by the second half of the year, Celebes Coconut Corporation and Celebes Agricultural Corporation exported a variety of banana and coconut products to different countries in the world.

Domestic quarantine marked a 10.16 percent decrease on the number of domestic vessels calling the seaports in the region but about 14.81 percent increase in the number of domestic flights were recorded. Relative to this, the number of permits verified upon entry at



the airports/seaports in the region increased by 21.71 percent. This indicates positive implementation on the issuance of shipping permits and likewise the result gained after the Philippines has been declared as FMD free country.

The entry and spread of coconut leaf beetle (Brontispa longgissima, Gestro) in the region increased the monitoring and surveillance

activities of Plant Quarantine Officers. Plant Quarantine Service (PQS)Caraga has coordinated with the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and LGUs in planning preventive measures to combat the spread and eradication of the said pest.

By the firsthalf of 2012, a total of 6,638 coconut trees in the entire region were reported to be infested by the said pests but as of December, it decreased to 1,919 trees and

28 other palm trees. This is due to the biocontrol measure using the pest's parasitoid, which wasdone by PCA.

As of December 3, 2012, the Regulatory Division had facilitated the initial registration and issuance of License to Operate (LTO) of one commercial feed manufacturer, 1 feed ingredient manufacturer, 1 feed importer, 1 feed exporter, 2 feed suppliers, 34 feed retailers and 12 Veterinary Drug and Product Outlets (VDAPO). They also processed the renewal of



registration and issued the LTO of 4 commercial feed manufacturers, 1 feed ingredient



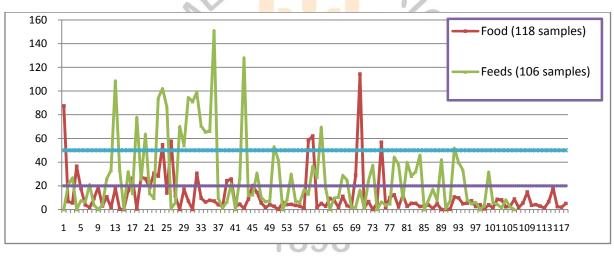
manufacturer, 1 feed importer, 1 feed supplier, 4 feed distributors, 52 feed retailers and 16 VDAP outlets.

Regular and spot inspections to commercial feed manufacturerswere conducted to continuously promote the production of clean feed for the production of clean meat and milk. Of the 570 feed samples taken, it was found out that 485 samples conformed to the standards but 85 were found to be below the BAI standard.

For the implementation of R.A 8485, otherwise known as Animal Welfare Act of 1998, one animal facility was renewed. The enforcement also conducted 120 inspections to animal facilities over the region, which includes hog farms, poultry farms, veterinary clinics and pet shops.

To ensure the quality of seeds, the Regional Seed Quality Control Services (RSQCS) at Taguibo, Butuan City collected and analyzed 842 seed samples of Certified Seeds. Rice production areas were given priority for inspection and certification.

Also, as part of the monitoring activities, 118 samples for corn attributed for foodand 106 samples attributed for feed consumptionwere analyzed. Accordingly, results revealed that aflatoxin level is higher than standard levels for food (20ppb) and for feeds (50 ppb). Nevertheless, aflatoxin prevention was promoted among corn farmers for premium quality corn grains and corn grits in partnership with the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS) through the Regional Feed Analytical Laboratory (RFAL) in the region.



Aflatoxin level in corn both for food and for feeds CY 2012 for Caraga Region

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

For 2012, the Research Division implemented 26 approved research studies conducted in the four research stations and on-farm trials. The team initiated the research and development on new rice technologies: five sites for submergence tolerant rice varieties, five sites for saline tolerant rice varieties, and nine sites for fancy rice varieties. They also worked on five sites for the development of



upland and organic farm technologypilot area and another five sites for the development of

varietal recommendation for organic rice production.



The Community-Based Participatory Action Research (CPAR) is one of the banner programs of DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR). In Caraga region, five CPAR projects were funded and established in Dinagat, Province of Dinagat Island; Sibagat, Agusan del Sur; Gigaquit and Placer, Surigao del Norte; and Barobo, Surigao del Sur. The CPAR projects were implemented to increase farmer's profitability by 20

percent in year 2013 using the farming systems approach to accelerate transfer of technology, and to modify or improve existing cropping pattern technologies.

In support to other commodities, one super-imposed research was conducted to identify the most adaptive varieties of cassava, and to establishits optimum fertilizer rate and plant density. This was in coordination with Trento and Tagbina Research Stations.ROS Tagbina also catered the advanced varietal trial of soybean in which, as observed, Tiwala 8 has the highest yield of 1.94 t/ha.



PLANS, POLICY, PROGRAM COORDINATION, MONITORING & EVALUATION

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



Essential to the success of the program implementation, planning workshops, coordination meetings, monitoring activities and evaluation of projects implemented were conducted.Quarterly meetings between and among the DA, attached agencies, 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 every month of October along with the celebration of World Food Week.

The DA sits as co-chair of the Development Council-Regional Economic Development Council (RDC-EDC) and as member of the Regional Development Council for Infrastructure Development (RDC-ID), Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Council (RDRRMC), Management Regional Peace and Order (RPOC),



Regional Intelligence Coordinating Council (RICC), Regional Councilfor the Welfare of Children (RCWC), Regional Council for Senior Citizens (RCSC), Regional Council for Disability Affairs (RCDA), Gender and Development Coordinating Council (GADCC), Lake Mainit Development Alliance (LMDA) and Caraga Consortium for Agriculture Research and Development (CCARD).

The HVCD Program Management Team has monitored and evaluated 34 projects. These projects were both from NGOs, Farmers, LGUs and other attached agencies. Thirty meetings were also conducted and facilitated by the Program. These include the quarterly meetings, assessment Gulayan sa Paaralan Project (GPP) meetings with the DepEd, and commodity meetings, to fast- track program implementations.



Moreover, OA Program had been

instrumental in the creation of 6 Local Technical Committee (LTCs) that were able to submit 6 executive orders for CY 2012 in addition to the67 LTCs created during the previous years.

OTHER PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

CARAGA INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CIDP)

The CIDPwas said to terminate by the end of CY 2012, its current appropriations were allocated only for the extension support, trainings, and conduct of monitoring and evaluation of its projects. The program conducted 18 different trainings, which include Goat Dairy Production, Global Information System (GIS), Oyster Mushroom Production, Meat Processing, and Abaca Twining and Handicraft Making with 589 participants. Assessment on its various projects implemented has been started in coordination with the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP).



MINDANAO RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (MRDP)

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).

Rural Infrastructure (RI)

Under the Rural Infrastructure Component, consist of FMRs and bridges, irrigation projects, potable water system (PWS) and other infrastructure projects amounting to Php2.69 billion, initial allocation of Php945 millionhas been released for Caraga. As of December 2012, completed infrastructure projects amounted to Php232.795 million wherein Php68.914 million was already fully liquidated by the participating LGUs.In addition, there are on-going project implementations amounting to Php505.342 million while Php202.077 million is still on its procurement stage.

Natural Resource Management (NRM)

The Regional Program Advisory Board (RPAB) had approved four subprojects for the MRDP Natural Resource Management (MRDP-NRM) On-the-Ground Investments (OGI) and Sustainable Income Generating Activities (SIGA) subprojects. Agro-forestry establishment is a



subproject both for San Agustin and Marihatag, Surigao del Sur. SIGA projects are Abaca Processing and Marketing for San Agustin, Surigao del Sur and Sea Cage Farming for Marihatag, Surigao del Sur. These projects are still for implementation. Total OGI and SIGA Projects amounted to Php2 million and Php4 million for San Agustin and Marihatag of Surigao del Sur, respectively.

The LGU of Nasipit was awarded as the Best Performing Municipality in implementing

MRDP-NRM Agro-forestry Subproject during the People Organization Congress last May 14, 2012 at Grand Regal Hotel in Davao City. They also received Php1.5 million for the expansion of Agro-forestry Subproject and acquisition of coastal equipment for monitoring.

Community Fund Agricultural Development (CFAD)

As of December 31, 2012, there are 437 sub-projects (SPs) that were completed from the provinces of Agusan del Norte (93 SPs); Agusan del Sur (140 SPs); Surigao del Norte (101SPs); Surigao del Sur (116 SPs) and Dinagat Islands (20 SPs). However, there were 25 completed sub-projects damaged by typhoon Pablo last December 4, 2012.



Sub-project damaged by Typhoon Pablo



As of December 31, 2012, Caraga Region has total project beneficiaries of 37,038 wherein 26,678 or 72 percent are Non-Indigenous People and 10,360 or 28 percent are Indigenous People.

Based on the subproject category, the project beneficiaries engrossed on the food security intervention. Out of 690 subprojects, 473 SPs are for food security category, 162 SPs are small support infra, 28 SPs are agro-processing facilities and expanded agribusiness activities and 25 SPs are community-managed sustainable agri-based livelihood and other agribusiness investment.

Community-managed Sustainable Agri-based Livelihood & other Agribusiness Investment



SUPPORT TO EMERGENCY AND LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE PROJECT PHASE II (SELAP II)

The Support to Emergency and Livelihood Assistance Project Phase II (SELAP II) is composed of four (4) components namely: the Rural Infrastructure (RI), Livelihood Assistance, Capability Building, and Program Management.

For this year, under Rural Infrastructure (RI), the project focused on concreting of Farm-to-Market Roads (FMRs). The overall physical accomplishment for this component is 35.6 percent with a total fund released to LGU of Php21.25 million.

For the Livelihood Assistance, there were seven projects implemented to seven municipalities with a





total amount of Php 2.1 million.

An Entrepreneurial Training with exposure trip were conducted and attended by the officers of the recipient organization last November 14-18, 2012 to equip them to be good entrepreneurs.

BUREAU OF SOILS AND WATER MANAGEMENT (BSWM)

The Bureau of Soils & Water Management has extended irrigation projects to the municipality of Buenavista, Agusan del Norte, the rehabilitation of Nacan-an Irrigation Project, wherein fund was downloaded directly to the LGU, while monitoring and reporting of accomplishments are being set as RFU's responsibility. The said irrigation project is now 100 percent completed as per monitoring. There were also 45 units pump and engine sets distributed to different farmer beneficiaries of Caraga, while 30 units are still in custody of the Regional Office.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Institutional Development Section (IDS) started the year 2012 by facilitating the National Rice Evaluation, which dramatically materialized the winning of the provinces of Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur for provincial level, and LGUs of Trento and Butuan City for city and municipal level as 2011 Rice Achievers.



The IDS spearheaded the search and awarding for the 2012 Regional Nominees for Rice Achievers Search wherein Agusan del Norte and Agusan del Sur led the provincial category awardees. Also declared as winners for the municipal level are Buenavista and RTR, Agusan del Norte; Trento and Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur; and Butuan City.

Gender and Development (GAD)

A GAD Focal System was formally organized last April 2012 and Gender Sensitivity Training was conducted last September 20-21 at La Entrada, Britania, San Agustin, Surigao del Sur.

The IDS initiated in the conduct of the 2012 Search for Outstanding Rural Woman

wherein Mrs. Epifania Antoquia was chosen as Caraga Region2012 Outstanding Rural Woman (*right photo*).

The agency participated the 2012 Women's Month Celebration, which was spearheaded by the Gender and Development Coordinating Council (GADCC)and participated by different government agencies of Caraga Region. They also took part on the 18-day campaign to end Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC).

Training on "chichacorn" was facilitated and conducted region wide to uplift the economic condition of



rural women by developing and looking into possible value added products for corn.



Mr. Julito Juntilla (Outstanding HVC Farmer)

Mr. Norberto Caritativo (Outstanding Integrated Rice Farmer)

The IDS took charged of facilitating the 2012 Gawad Saka Search. There were five (5) Regional Nominees namely: City Agriculture and Fisheries Council (CAFC) of Surigao City, Tandag Boholano Fishermen Association (TANBOFISA) for BFT Category, Mr. Norberto Caritativo of San Francisco, ADS for Outstanding Integrated Rice Farmer, Mr. Julito Juntilla for Outstanding HVC Farmer and JCA Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative (JARBEMCO) of Bayugan, ADS for Outstanding Small Farmers Organization. Among the five (5) nominees, CAFC of Surigao City & TANBOFISA was declared as 2012 GAWAD SAKA National Finalists.

Regional Agricultural & Fishery Council (RAFC)



RAFC have successfully conducted fourquarterly meetings in which on the 2ndquarter a reorganization of officers for the council was held. Mr. Robert Enciso of Agusan del Norte was elected as RAFC Chairman for the 2012-2014 term. He replaced former RAFC Chairperson Reynaldo Gaballo who retired from service due to health reasons. RAFC also conducted a Silver Anniversary Celebration last November 20, 2012 at VCDU Prince Hotel,

Butuan City to honor AFC's of Caraga who relentlessly shared their time and efforts to the council for the last 25 years. Two (2) sectoral meetings were also conducted. RAFC hold a region wide Organic Agriculture Advocacy and Orientation for AFC's featuring special LBP loan window for Organic Farmer last November 28-29, 2012.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Relying on the principle that human resource is the most important resource in an organization, several interventions and activities wasconducted to enhance/unleash employees' capability to achieve the goal of the organization. These are the following:

- Nine division/section chiefs attended the Leadership Training conducted by Covey Philippines in Quezon City;
- Enhanced Safety Driving Course was conducted and attended by 24 drivers;
- Three batches of health and wellness program entitled "Coping with Stress" was conducted with 133 participants;
- Staff Development Program was conducted last Dec 13-14, 2012 to give an opportunity to bond and build relations among all employees;
- Inspectorate Team was given an orientation to equip them of their additional function
- Four retirees were given a ceremonial thanksgiving program;



- Participated in the Synchronized Tree Planting Activity sponsored by the City of Butuan as well as in the In-House Plant a Tree Program of the Department; and,
- A Summer Internship Program was also implemented which provide 21 students a foretaste of real work situation and earn for their school expenses.

Making use of available technology makes life easier, thus, an electronic procurement system (e-ProcSys) was installed to keep tract and facilitate speedy procurements. Moreover, CCTV cameras were installed in strategic locations for monitoring and to document untoward incidents.

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) was able to facilitate 77 procurements for public bidding with a total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of Php184.6million. The total amount awarded was close to Php 160.6 million, thus generated a savings of about Php23.9 million, which was used to fund more projects.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Three (3) Farmers' and Fisherfolks' Forum were conducted in the region and were attended by the DA Secretary himself, Hon. Proceso J. Alcala. The first one was on June 1, 2012 in San Province of Jose, Dinagat Islandsattended by 679 farmers wherein about Php29million of projects were awarded, turned-over and raffled. Second was on July 12, 2012 in General Luna, Siargao Islands, Surigao del Norte with participants of 445 farmers and a total amount of Php24million of projects were awarded, funded, turned-over and raffled. The last one was on July 24, 2012 in Taguibo, Butuan City attended by 285 farmers wherein around Php5.8 million of projects were also awarded, turnedover and raffled.



In support to the growth of agriculture and fishery in the said area, several farm



equipment, draft animals, planting materials, and other support services were raffled. Ceremonial turnover of projects especially FMR was also conducted during each of the activity.

The Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) had already finished the Barangay Agricultural Profiling Survey (BAPS). Along with the DA-LGU coordination meetings for the fourth quarter, they have disseminated the results for each province. It

was found out that 45 percent of Caraga land area is devoted to agriculture and 97 percent of all Barangays are engaged in this sector. These results will be published on the first quarter of 2013.



On the left photo: (From left) Mr. Gromyko A. Geraldino, Mayor Alfredo M. Coro II, Gov. Sol F. Matugas, Hon. Sec. Proceso J. Alcala, RED Edna M. Mabeza, Cong. Francisco T. Matugas (*red shirt*), and Vice Governor Arturo Carlos A. Egay, Jr. (*brown shirt*) during the Ground Breaking Ceremony of the Provincial Integrated Demonstration Farm and Training Center last July 12, 2012 at Brgy.Cancohoy, Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte

DA-Caraga hosted two national events for the year 2012—the National Management Committee Meeting and the National Vegetable Congress (July 24-26, 2012), and participated during the Caraga 17th Founding Anniversary (Feb. 25, 2012) and Grand Balangay Float Parade (May 2012) in which DA-Caraga bagged first place in the Best Float Category and 2nd-time grand champion in the Street Dancing Competition.



With the damaged brought by Typhoon Pablo in some areas of Caraga Region, OIC-Regional Executive Director Edna M. Mabeza, opted to cancel the usual exchange gift giving and instead urged the DA employees to use the intended money for the Pablo victims. True to

its word, DA – RFU XIII provided relief goods of white corn grits, rice, assorted bundles of clothing and canned goods to the Municipalities of Veruela and San Luis, Agusan del Sur and Lingig, Surigao del Sur.

Aside from relief goods, some LGU had received an initial seeds for replanting for the damaged crops and DA will support for rehab/repair of damaged agricultural infrastructures.

DA Caraga also extended



support for the heavily affected areas in Davao Oriental thru sending of two tractors and various seeds.

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION



From Top Left (counter clockwise): RED Edna M. Mabeza with Gov. Sol F. Matugasof Surigao del Norte in the TD site at Del Carmen; RED Mabeza with Secretary Proceso J. Alcala during their visit in Siargao Island; 10th National Vegetable Congress last July 24-26, 2012 in Balanghai Hotel and Convention Center, Butuan City; and lower right, RED Mabeza with Dir. Carmencita S. Cochingco of NEDA, Dir. Leticia Tan of DOT, Gov. Matugas, Brigadier General Charito Plaza, and Rep. Teddy Casiño during the 17th Founding Anniversary of Caraga.

DA-RFU XIII Key Officials



Edna M. Mabeza, Ph.D. OIC-Regional Executive Director and Coordinator, Rice Program



Edgardo D. Dahino, CESO IV RTD for Operations and LGU Support and CIDP Coordinator



Jessica S. Da-an Chief, Administrative and Finance Division



Teodora P. Fiel, DVM RTD for Research and Regulation and Chairperson, ACEF RTC

Lynn A. Pareñas

Rebecca R. Atega

Person. Organic Agriculture

Servilla D. Balaan

Division (AMAD)

Chief, Crops Division and Coordinator,

High Value Crops Development Program

OIC, Regional Agricultural and Fishery

Information Division (RAFID) and Focal

Isidro Q. Lagumbay, Jr., DVM Chief, Regulatory Division



Wilfreda M. Maslog Chief, Research Division





OIC, Livestock Division and Coordinator, Livestock Program



Rene Q. Morales, RPAE OIC, Regional Agricultural Engineering Division (RAED)



Jodel A. Tabada OIC, Planning, Monitoring and Project Development Division (PMPDD)



Abel F. Wagas Coordinator, Corn Program





Isabelita L. Ocampo Chief, Institutional Development Section and Coordinator, RAFC

OIC, Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance



Eliseo T. Tila Coordinator, Mindanao Rural Development Program (MRDP)



Department of Agrículture - Caraga

Directory of Attached Agencies and Line Bureaus



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BUREAU OF SOILS AND WATER MANAGEMENT (BSWM)

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FIBER INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FIDA) Head

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