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DA lifts ban on Australia poultry imports

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has lifted the ban on the importation of domestic and wild birds and their by-products from Lethbridge in Victoria, Australia as the area was declared free from the avian virus.

Agriculture Secretary William Dar issued the lifting of the temporary ban, which covers poultry meat, day-old chicks ,eggs and semen.

"All import transactions of the above bird species shall be in accordance with existing rules and regulations of the DA and the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI),"Dar said.

In August last year, the DA issued a ban on poultry imports from Australia, following an outbreak of H7N7 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus in Lethbridge.

The DA later modified the ban to cover just the town of Lethbridge in November.

Dar said the DA based its decision to lift the ban on poultry imports from Lethbridge on a final report submitted by the veterinary authorities of Australia to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) stating that it is free from HPAI.

The memorandum order is effective immediately.

Sought for comment on the lifting of the ban, Meat Importers and Traders Association (MITA) president Jess Cham said this would have a very small impact.

Based on data from the BAI, there have been no poultry imports from Australia from January to May this year.

The temporary ban on poultry imports from the United Kingdom, Germany, Denmark, France, Sweden, Russia, Poland and Czech Republic remains in effect.

A temporary ban was also imposed on poultry imports from the Netherlands. However, the DA allowed the importation of mechanically deboned poultry meat (MDM) from the country in April.

The partial lifting was issued to grant the request of meat importer processors (MIP) with thermal processing equipment to import MDM for processing from HPAI-free zones in the Netherlands as declared by the OIE.

– **Catherine Talavera**

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FISH SPECIES NOT AFFECTED BY VOLCANIC ERUPTION

DA: TILAPIA FROM TAAL SAFE FOR CONSUMPTION

By Karl R. Ocampo
@KAROcampo_

Authorities on Monday gave assurance to the public that tilapia (black carp) and other fish variants harvested from Taal Lake are safe for consumption despite the restiveness of Taal Volcano.

Fish prices in Metro Manila markets should also remain stable as there have been no disruptions in the delivery of supply.

In a media briefing with officials from the Department of Agriculture (DA), Sammy Malvas, regional director of Calabarzon, said water sample tests conducted by the agency showed that the water quality in Taal Lake remains normal.

Thus, consumers should not worry about any health hazards from eating fish coming from the lake.

Malvas added that retail prices of fish in public markets, especially tilapia, should not increase as seen in the DA's recent price monitoring reports.

Baseless claims

As of last week, prices of tilapia have risen by P10 per kilogram, which retailers blamed on the supposed shortage caused by Taal Volcano's latest eruption.

"There shouldn't be any increase in prices," said Agriculture Undersecretary Cheryl Caballero. "Even in cases where there may be shortages in fish supply, the agency is already implementing programs to fast-track the delivery of fish from other sources."

Advocacy group Tugon Kabuhayan, led by former Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources director Asis Perez, also urged consumers not to believe baseless claims that fish variants from Taal Lake were unsafe to eat due to the water's high sulfur content.

"It took several days to reverse the negative impact [of the misinformation] ... The farmers were hit twice—one by the volcanic eruption and the other by the adverse advisory," the group said.

Only plants affected

Nestor Natanauan, president of Taal Lake Aquaculture Alliance Inc. (TLAAI), added that the phreatic explosion of the Taal Volcano would not affect fish species thriving in the surrounding lake as the debris from the explosion did not reach the waters while sulfur dioxide emitted by the volcano only affected plants.

"Fish do not consume ash from the volcano," he stressed.

Daily fish production from the 6,000 cages of TLAAI members reaches between 200 to 250 tons daily, excluding the artisanal tilapia caught outside the cages such as tawilis, maliputo, biya, and other local species.

Overall, the combined production of aquaculture and capture fishing activities in the lake could reach 100,000 metric tons per year.

About 70 percent of the volume is consumed outside the province of Batangas and is mostly delivered to Metro Manila, making it an important economic resource. INQ

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SWINE FEVER ALERT

ILOCOS NORTE TOWN'S HOG INDUSTRY LOSES P7.7M TO ASF

LAOAG CITY—Hog raisers in Solsona town in Ilocos Norte province have accounted for at least P7.7 million in losses due to the African swine fever (ASF), according to local officials.

The viral disease, which was first traced to hogs raised in Barangay Manalpac on June 4, has since spread to three more villages in Solsona, and in the neighboring town of Dingras, said Dr. Loida Valenzuela, provincial veterinarian, in a press briefing on June 30.

The disease had wiped out at least 1,543 hogs raised by 229 backyard and commercial raisers in the town in the past three weeks, local data showed.

In Dingras alone, around 488 hogs from the village of San Marcelino had been culled to prevent the spread of ASF.

Alfonso Jeziel de los Reyes, Solsona information officer, told the Inquirer on July 2 that a local raiser was found to have inadvertently dumped his dead hogs at an irrigation site in Maananteng village, which could have contaminated the waters flowing to the other villages.

'Risky investment'

Authorities appealed to raisers to refrain from feeding their hogs with "swill" or leftover food and avoid getting their water supply from the town's irrigation canal system.

"Investing in the [hog] industry during these times entails a lot of risks," Benjamin Viloria, a hog raiser from Solsona, told the Inquirer in a separate interview on July 2. Viloria lost at least P460,000 after 92 of his hogs had been culled.

He added: "Despite this unfortunate event, there is nothing I could really do than to abide by the measures put in place by the government to prevent the further spread of the disease."

Authorities in Solsona and Dingras towns have intensified their monitoring activities by reinforcing border checkpoints to regulate the movement of live hogs and pork products.

A crackdown was also ordered by local officials on the illegal hunting and trading of "alingo" (wild boar), which was seen by agriculture authorities to have introduced the disease in the town's pig stock.

Affected hog raisers were earlier given financial and livelihood assistance, while other hog raisers in other towns and cities in the province which are not yet affected by the disease were also asked to insure their pigs with the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp.

Ilocos Norte's hog industry is worth around P4.98 billion, according to the latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority. —JOHN MICHAEL MUGAS INQ

The Manila Times®

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Tilapia from Taal Lake safe for consumption amid volcano unrest

AMID the current restiveness of Taal Volcano, fish pen operators and fisherfolk assured the public that tilapia from Taal Lake is safe for consumption.

"*Yun pong* phreatic explosion *dito sa amin ang tawag eh pabusngi-busngi ng bulkan ay 'di naman nakakaapekto sa tilapia. Bumagsak ang* debris *sa paligid din lang ng isla at iyon namang* sulfur dioxide *ang naapektuhan ay mga halaman. Balik na ang mga tao sa pagpapakain ng isda. Lalong hindi rin naman kinakain ng isda ang abo na galing sa bulkan (*The phreatic explosion doesn't affect tilapia. The debris fell only within surrounding areas of the island while sulfur dioxide only affects plants. Moreover, fish do not consume ash from the volcano)," Nestor Natanauan, president of Taal Lake Aquaculture Alliance Inc., (TLAAI), said in a statement on Monday.

In an earlier radio interview, Natanauan said fisherfolk and fish farmers are aware of the dangers of Taal's possible explosion.

"Hence, feeding is done only in the morning, after which workers immediately return to the mainland," said Natanauan.

Natanauan, likewise assured the public Taal fisherfolk only harvest and sell fresh and live tilapia.

According to Natanauan, daily fish production from the 6,000 cages of TLAAI members is around 200- 250 tons per day.

This excludes artisanal tilapia caught outside their cages, as well as *tawilis, maliputo, biya* and other local species.

Meanwhile, advocacy group Tugon Kabuhayan said the combined production of aquaculture and capture fisheries from Taal Lake could reach 100,000 metric tons per year, of which 70 percent is consumed outside Batangas, mostly in Metro Manila and surrounding areas.

It can be recalled at the onset of the volcano's eruption in January last year, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and other scientists had to debunk a baseless claim by a Department of Health official tilapia from Taal Lake was unsafe to eat due to the water's high sulfur content.

It took several days to reverse the negative impact as most of the harvested Taal Tilapia were either unsold or bought at very low prices.

JORDEENE LAGARE

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

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Coconut industry roadmap to focus on competitiveness

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

Increased social protection for farmers, improved production, and enhanced trade are some of the key strategies to be implemented by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) with the launch of its coconut farmers and industry development roadmap which aims to boost the industry's competitiveness.

Last week, PCA administrator Benjamin Madrigal Jr. announced that the PCA completed the crafting of the Coconut Farmers Industry Roadmap (COCOFIRM).

In a roadmap summary, a copy of which was obtained by **The STAR**, the PCA identified seven strategies to achieve the goal of creating a globally competitive coconut industry.

Among these are promoting coconut farmers's welfare and social protection; strengthening and empowering coconut farmer organizations (CFOs); increasing and sustaining coconut production or farm improvement; and establishing coconut-based farming systems (CBFS) agri-business hubs and corridors for coconut products, intercrops and livestock.

Other key strategies alo include improving competitiveness of traditional and non-traditional coconut products in local and global markets; enhancing trade and marketing; and strengthening policy and other support services.

"These COCOFIRM recommendations address major concerns of the industry toward improving the competitiveness of traditional and non-traditional coconut products for global and domestic markets," the PCA said.

The PCA said the strategies would support efforts toward social protection and improved farmers welfare; agribusiness management and skills enhancement of coconut farmers' organizations; farm improvements including hybridization, intercropping, livestock integration and integrated coconut processing agro-enterprises; and provision of support systems including credit, shared facilities, infrastructure, and road networks.

The roadmap aims to provide direction and recommendations toward sustainable development of the coconut industry, focusing on inclusive growth to lift the coconut farmers out of poverty and improving the competitiveness and expanding the market potential of traditional and non-traditional coconut products.

"This (COCOFIRM) provides the broad strokes and strategic directions for the coconut farmers industry development, ensuring that the current and the next generation of coconut farmers are capacitated into empowering copreneurs," Madrigal said.

He added that the completed roadmap was a result of various consultations with coconut farmers, industry groups, and other concerned stakeholders.

The PCA is mandated to craft the roadmap as part of its duties stated in the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act (CFITFA), which was signed by the President in February.

The CFITFA allocates P5 million for the formulation of an industry development plan.

"The approval of RA 11524 creating the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund (CFITF) will jumpstart and sustain the transformation of the coconut industry, provide social protection, empowerment, and prosperity to farmers and thus, strengthen and enhance the global competitiveness of the coconut industry," the PCA said.

Under the law, the CFITF will receive P10 billion from the Bureau of the Treasury upon enactment of the law, and then P10 billion in the second year, P15 billion in the third year, P15 billion in the fourth year, and P25 billion in the fifth year, for a total of P75 billion, plus any amount accruing, including interest of the coconut levy, in the special account in the general fund.

Apart from the crafting of the roadmap, the PCA is also mandated to update the National Coconut Farmers Registry System (NCFRS).

Last month, Madrigal said a total of 2.84 million farmers have been registered in the NCFRS.

BusinessMirror
A broader look at today's business

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Sarangani Bay restocked with 1.5-M bangus fries

IN photo at the dispersal ceremony are FHI personnel, BFAR regional officials, municipal and barangay officials. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AROUND 1.5 million bangus fries produced and donated by the Alsons Group, through its Finfish Hatcheries Inc. (FHI), were released recently at Sarangani Bay in Malapatan town to help replenish the dwindling fish population that could be attributed to illegal fishing and overfishing.

FHI operations manager Dorie Ticao said the activity is a regular corporate social responsibility program to help the government in its effort to ensure the sustainability of aquatic resources in the Sarangani Bay, one of the country's top protected seascapes and key marine biodiversity areas.

Last June 2017, FHI also released giant lapu-lapu spawners at the marine protected area in Maasim town to help replenish the grouper (lapu-lapu) population in the western part of the bay.

Meanwhile, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 12 director Alfeo Piloton said that the seeding of the Bay is in line with the Department of Agriculture's Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita initiative, as part of the national government's food security priority agenda.

Malaya
Business Insight

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DA readies protocol to avert pest infestation on rice crops

THE Department of Agriculture through the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) has tapped international organization Center for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) in conducting an intensive training among rice technical workers in the country to prepare rice research and development workers for the possible fall armyworm (FAW) infestation to rice in the country.

FAW infestation in the Philippines has so far been limited to corn crops.

Genaro Rillon, a crop protection expert from PhilRice, said a different protocol has to be crafted for rice because the cultivation of the crop is different.

.Tools developed by CABI were introduced last month by pest experts from Malaysia, India, United Kingdom and Africa to 49 researchers and extension workers from PhilRice; Bureau of Plant and Industry; DA-Regional Crop Protection and Management Center in Cagayan Valley and Central Luzon; and local government units of Pampanga, Tarlac and Pangasinan.

CABI has expertise in providing technical information and assistance to address agricultural and environmental problems.

Fighting pests. FAW was observed affecting not only corn but also rice crops in seedling stage in Cagayan and in other corn-producing areas in the country.

PhilRice said in the past cropping season, FAW was observed affecting not only corn but also rice crops in seedling stage in Cagayan and in other corn-producing areas in the country.

The agency is crafting strategies to develop and disseminate pest management protocols for rice technician and extension workers who are closely engaged with rice and rice-based farming systems farmers.

It also advised farmers to observe early symptoms such as cut or damaged leaf margins and sightings of larvae in the area.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAW can cause significant damage to crops in the absence of natural control as the insect prefers corn but can also feed on more than 80 additional species of crops, including rice, sorghum, millet, sugarcane, vegetable crops and cotton. - ***Jed Macapagal***

Daily Tribune
WITHOUT FEAR ◊ WITHOUT FAVOR

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IP farmers turn agripreneurs

Aboitiz Foundation also donated a corn sheller for the Marawi-Baloi farmers in Nangka, Baloi, Lanao del Norte

Aboitiz Group's corporate social responsibility unit Aboitiz Foundation and food arm Pilmico have assisted farmers in Iligan to be efficient 'agri-preneurs' and create a more sustainable livelihood.

Through the Inclusive Agribusiness Project, the Foundation and Pilmico donated farm equipment to Hindang Farmers to help increase their production volume and meet market demands.

The Aboitiz Foundation also donated a corn sheller for the Marawi-Baloi farmers in Nangka, Baloi, Lanao del Norte under the Angat Lahat sa Agribusiness livelihood program in partnership with Go Negosyo.

"Through the inclusive agri-business project, the Aboitiz Foundation is committed to further help Marawi Baloi Farmers Association and Hindang MPC to attain organizational sustainability and scale up their production, taking advantage of the significant demand for yellow corn," Aboitiz Foundation president and COO Maribeth Marasigan said.

"With Pilmico Foods Corporation and Go Negosyo as partners, we intend to contribute to achieving sustained income for their members, which will lead to an improvement in their quality of life and well-being," Marasigan added.

Yellow corn buyer

Pilmico is one of the institutional markets that purchases yellow corn produce directly from the Hindang Banana Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative (Hindang MPC), which received a corn sheller, a moisture checker, PVC tarps, a weighing scale, and other farm inputs that the farmers can use in their crop production.

"This is a big help for us farmers in ensuring that we have bountiful crops," said Larry Coracol, chairperson of Hindang MPC.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ABOITIZ FOUNDATION

IN the turnover of farm equipment from Aboitiz Foundation are (from left) Iligan City Agriculture Officer Welfredo Goles, Hindang Cooperative Manager Danilo Bagares, BOD Member Rexon Lumapas, c hairperson Larry Coracol.

Through the inclusive agri-business project, the Aboitiz Foundation is committed to further help Marawi Baloi Farmers Association and Hindang MPC to attain organizational sustainability and scale up their production, taking advantage of the significant demand for yellow corn.

To ensure the sustainability of the project, Aboitiz partnered with the City Agriculture Office of Iligan City to provide skills training and updates on farming technologies. Aboitiz is also closely working with the Cooperative Development Authority to monitor the organizational performance of the cooperative.

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Business Insight

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'Taal fish safe to eat'

FISH pen operators and fisherfolks operating in Taal Lake appealed to the public to continue supporting fish caught in the region as it is safe for consumption despite the current restiveness of the Taal Volcano.

"The phreatic explosion doesn't affect tilapia. The debris fell only within surrounding areas of the island while sulfur dioxide only affects plants. Fish do not consume ash from the volcano," Nestor Natanauan, president of the Taal Lake Aquaculture Alliance Inc. (TLAAI), said in a statement.

Natanuan also assured the public Taal fisherfolk only harvest and sell fresh and live tilapia from the lake.

Natanauan said daily fish production from the 6,000 cages of TLAAI members is around 200 to 250 tons per day, excluding artisanal tilapia caught outside their cages as well as tawilis, maliputo, biya and other local species.

Meanwhile, food security group Tugon Kabuhayan said combined production of aquaculture and capture fisheries from Taal Lake could reach 100,000 metric tons per year of which 70 percent is consumed outside Batangas, mostly in Metro Manila and surrounding areas.

"Taal's contribution to food security can't be overemphasized. Thus, government must ensure that production and delivery isn't hampered or threatened unnecessarily," Asis Perez, the group's convenor, said in a statement.

He added that government must avoid a similar situation last year when much of the fish produce from Taal Lake were either unsold or bought at very low prices due to the Department of Health's previous debunked claim that fish caught in the lake was unsafe to eat due to the water's high sulfur content. - ***Jed Macapagal***

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Everybody's Newspaper

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LandBank loans to farm sector reach P230B

The Land Bank of the Philippines has extended a total of P230.02 billion in loans to the agriculture sector in the first five months of the year, benefitting 2.7 million farmers and fisherfolk along with agribusiness enterprises and related projects by local government units and state-run firms.

LandBank president and chief executive officer Cecilia Borromeo said this loan amount is P73 million higher than the P229.29 billion level reached in April 2021 and is already 81.6 percent of the bank's 2021 target of P281.75 billion.

Borromeo's report to Finance Sec. Carlos Dominguez III also showed that from 2,703,249 farmers and fishers assisted by the bank as of April, another 31,323 were provided by the state lender in the form of soft loans, subsidies and financial literacy training programs as of end-May.

This brings the total number of farmers and fishers assisted by the state lender as of May 31 to 2,734.572.

Of the loan releases of P230.o2 billion, close to two-thirds or P145.85 billion went to small, medium and large agribusinesses enterprises while the remaining P84.17 billion went to small farmers and fisherfolk (P34.79 billion) and the agri-aqua related projects of LGUs and government-owned and controlled corporations (P49.38 billion), according to Borromeo.

Small farmers and fishers borrowed a total of P1.24 billion through direct lending, and another P33.55 billion through conduits such as cooperatives and farmers' associations, rural financial institutions, and other credit mechanisms.

Pilipino Star NGAYON

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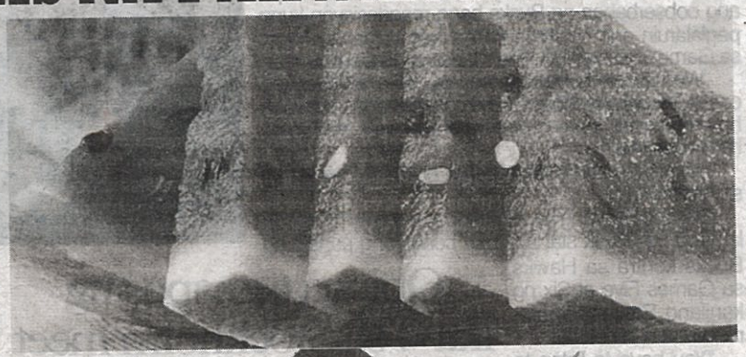
GABAY SA PAGTATANIM NG MATAMIS NA PAKWAN SA BOTE



Ang Magsasakang REPORTER

ni MER LAYSON

Ngayong araw na ito ay ise-share ko sa inyo ang pagtatanim ng matamis na Pakwan sa 10-liters na empty bottle ng mineral water, sa pamamagitan ng Organikong pamamaraan.

Ang Pakwan ay masarap at masustansiya, madalas ay ginagawa nating pang-dessert pagkatapos natin kumain.

Una ang mga seeds ng Pakwan ay maaari ninyong mabili sa mga plant nursery, SM Supermarket, Ace Hardware, Handyman, Shopwise Supermarket at iba pa.

Maaari rin itanim ang buto ng Pakwan na inyong nabili na panghimagas.

Simpleng alagaan at patubuin ang Pakwan sa 10 liters na empty bottle ng mineral water.

Tiyakin lamang na matabang lupa ang gagamitin sa pagtatanim ng ano mang halaman, tulad ng Pakwan.

Ang matabang lupa ay pundasyon ng malusog ng halaman.

Ang ratio ng lupa sa pagtatanim ng mga halaman tulad ng Pakwan ay 50 percent garden soil o buhaghag na lupa, 25 percent ipa ng palay at 25 percent na tuyong dumi ng manok o chicken manure.

Ibaon lang ng 1-inches sa lupa na nasa bote ang dalawang buto ng Pakwan at pagkalipas ng 7-araw ay tutubo na.

After 20-days nang pagkakatubo ng tanim ay maaari ng diligan at ispreyan ng natural fertilizer na Fermented Plant Juice (FPJ),isang beses kada Linggo para manatiling malusog.

Pagkalipas 45-days ay mahaba na ang baging ng Pakwan at magsisimula nang mamulaklak.

Upang matuloy lahat sa bunga ang mga bulaklak ay gumawa ng Fermented Fruit Juice. (FFJ) saka idilig at ipang-ispray, once a week sa mga tanim na Pakwan.

Para hindi lapitin ng mga insekto ang Pakwan ay one's a week na mag-ispray ng Oriental Herbal Nutrients (OHN) kahit walang naninira para maagapan agad ang posibleng manira sa ating mga tanim.

Sa loob lang 85-days ay maaari nang umani ng Pakwan na sariling tanim sa ating bakuran.

Makakatipid ka na, masustansiya pa ang pagsasaluhan ng buong pamilya at hindi ka maaapektuhan ng mataas na presyo ng Pakwan at gulay Merkado.

Tandaan lang po na laging i-apply ang TLC-Tender Love and Care sa pagtatanim ng mga halaman para ito ay mapakinabangan.

Ang Magsasakang Reporter po ay marami ng tanim na gulay, pero patuloy pang nagtatanim dahil sa paniniwalang ang pagkakaroon ng seguridad sa pagkain ay dapat magsimula sa ating tahanan, "FOOD SECURITY STARTS AT HOME.

Milyun-milyon ngayon ang nagugutom, maraming kabataan ang dumaranas ng malnutrition, ang pagtatanim at pagkain ng gulay ang solusyon.

Nagawa ko po ito, magagawa rin po ninyo.

Nawa po ay nakapagshare ako ng kaalaman at impormasyon ngayong araw na ito tungkol sa pagtatanim at pag-aalaga ng Pakwan sa bote.

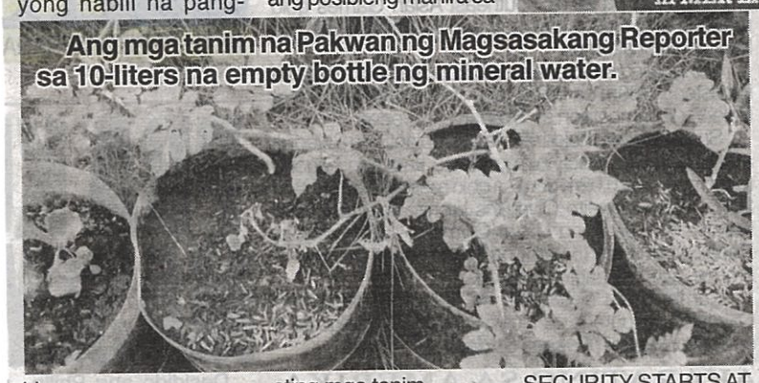
Panoorin po ninyo ang video tutorial ko sa aking Youtube Channel na ANG MAGSASAKANG REPORTER tungkol sa step by step na pagtatanim at pag-aalaga ng Pakwan sa bote.

Para sa iba pang tips at sikreto sa pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman ay maaari po kayong manood at makinig ng aking TV at Radio program na Masaganang Buhay tuwing Linggo, alas-7:00 hanggang alas-8:00 ng umaga sa OnePH Cignal TV, Channel 1 ng TV-5. Mapapakinggan din po sa Radyo Singko 92.3 News FM.

Maaari rin kayong manood at mag-subscribe sa aking Youtube Channel na ANG MAGSASAKANG REPORTER para sa iba pang kaalaman at impormasyon sa pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman sa pamamagitan ng Organikong pamamaraan.

Tuwing araw ng Martes ay regular ninyong mababasa ang aking kolum dito sa **Pilipino Star Ngayon** (**PSN**) ng Star Group of Publications.

Sa mga tanong at komento ay maaari ninyo akong i-text, huwag po tawag ah, sa 09178675197. STAY SAFE, HAPPY FARMING, GOD BLESS US ALL.



Ang mga tanim na Pakwan ng Magsasakang Reporter sa 10-liters na empty bottle ng mineral water.

Lumaking malulusog ang mga bungang Pakwan mula sa itinanim sa bote ng Magsasakang Reporter.