

A. SEC. PBBM QUOTED

BUSINESS MIRROR

Photo: Rice, Still the issue

MANILA BULLETIN

Gov't to assess rice price caps

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Farmers back, fishers oppose fishing tycoon as DA chief

PEOPLE'S JOURNAL

NFA's mandate

PH shrimp, prawn production seen to grow further in 2023

B. DA FAMILY

BUSINESS MIRROR

Helping the Marcos administration solve hunger in the Philippines

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PH likely to import more sugar

BUSINESS WORLD

PHL raw sugar output forecast downgraded by USDA

Rice imports drop in Sept. as harvest starts

THE MANILA TIMES

Nueva Vizcaya's micro rice retailers get subsidy

Rice imports down 43% as of Sept. 21

MANILA BULLETIN

Editorial: A FRUITFUL MOVE: Opening the world market to our farmers

MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

Sugar output projection lowered to 1.8MMT

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Phl to import 240k MT of refined sugar

WEyes wide open: Oh my gulay! Atbp.

PEOPLE'S JOURNAL

DA urges Calabarzon youth to pursue agriculture career

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON

Modernize farming, isinulong ni Barbers

C. AGRI-RELATED STORY

BUSINESS MIRROR

Iloilo eyes artificial insemination' for hogs

BUSINESS MIRROR

PHL may import more refined sugar for current crop year – USDA report

MANILA BULLETIN

BSP starts live report submission of agri, rural dev't financing

PEOPLE'S JOURNAL

Editorial: Rice smugglers

ABANTE

ASF sumirit, state of calamity dineklara sa Ilocos Norte

ABANTE TONITE

3 rice importers sabit sa Economic sabotage

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON

Mandaluyong rooftop garden: MP urban hydroponics

Economic sabotage kinaso vs rice smugglers

D. FOREIGN STORY

MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

Wheat up, soybeans down



LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE



RICE, STILL THE ISSUE Amid the ongoing rice price issues in the Philippines, delivery workers unload rice from a truck at a warehouse in Taytay, Rizal. Various agricultural groups emphasize that there is no rice shortage, challenging the basis for the proposal to reduce tariff and the potential influx of imported rice into the market. They echo the President's stance that there is sufficient rice but distribution challenges hinder market availability. **BERNARD TESTA**



LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Gov't to assess rice price caps

By CHINO LEYCO

The Department of Finance (DOF) said the Marcos administration will review the enforcement of rice price ceilings this week, taking into account the start of the harvest season to determine if the price controls should be lifted.

Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno said the government will assess specific trigger indicators to determine the optimal timing for lifting the mandatory price ceilings on rice, which have been in effect since Sept. 5.

"Next week [Oct. 3], there will be a meeting to assess when to lift the rice price cap," Diokno told reporters during the Chat with SBED briefing on Sept. 29.

Diokno said their decision will be based on the "most recent information" they have during the Oct. 3 meeting.

"There are triggers, such as whether it is already the harvest season and if imports are incoming; those are the triggers. So, the president will decide based on our meeting next week when to lift," Diokno said.

Last week, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan said the decision to lift the price ceiling on commonly purchased rice varieties would be made "very soon."

Balisacan explained that price caps cannot be maintained indefinitely as the negative effects can outweigh the positive ones.

Under Executive Order 39, the price limit for regular milled rice was set at ₱41 per kilo, while well-milled rice had a cap of ₱45 per kilo.

Balisacan indicated that the price control measure might be lifted this month.

"October will be the peak of the harvest so we will be able to address the issue, remove the price cap," he said.

Earlier, President Marcos rejected the proposal to temporarily reduce rice tariffs as a means to address the rising rice prices in the local market, stating that it was not the appropriate time to lower tariff rates due to the projected decrease in world rice prices.

The President made these comments following a sectoral meeting in Malacañang, where NEDA presented updates on the proposed rice tariff reduction, incorporating inputs from the DOF, Department of Trade and Industry, and the Department of Budget and Management.

Date: 09. 03, 2023 Page: 3



LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Farmers back, fishers oppose fishing tycoon as DA chief

By **BELLA CARIASO**

Farmers' group Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. (PCAFI) president Danilo Fausto yesterday backed the possible appointment of fishing tycoon Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. as next secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

"He is a good guy and has good knowledge of our problems in agriculture. I extend our sincerest good luck to his (possible) leadership and PCAFI will continue to work hand in hand with the DA for the good of our people and our country," Fausto told **The STAR**.

On the other hand, fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) has expressed alarm over reports that Marcos is considering appointing Laurel as the next agriculture chief.

In a statement yesterday, Pamalakaya contended that the Frabelle Fishing Corp. (FFC) "ranks among the Philippines'

prominent large-scale fishing companies," engaging not only in industrial fishing operations in deep seas but also in extensive land reclamation activities along coastal areas and municipal waters.

Malacañang would not confirm reports that **President Marcos is** eyeing Laurel as secretary of the DA. For his part, Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura chairman Rosendo So said that he would rather wait for the official announcement on the appointment of Tiu.

"Let's wait for PBBM," So said in a separate text message to **The STAR**.

Citing sources, *Bilyonaryo.com* said Laurel, who owns the Frabelle Group of Companies, has the qualities Marcos has been looking for in a DA chief, a position the President concurrently holds since assuming office in June last year.

Laurel was one of Marcos' top donors in the 2022 elections, the

business news website said.

Earlier, Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin said he believes Marcos was "on the way" to making a decision with regard to choosing the new agriculture secretary.

Pamalakaya said the FFC is the driving force behind a 420-hectare reclamation project that has resulted in the displacement of over 700 fishing families residing in two coastal villages in Bacoor City, Cavite.

"No wonder the President earlier announced amending the Fisheries Code in favor of commercial fishing vessels," Pamalakaya chairman Fernando Hicap said.

"[A]side from being a member of Marcos Jr.'s Private Sector Advisory Council, it turns out Laurel Jr. has also been the prospect of taking the helm of the agriculture department, which includes the fishing sector," Hicap said.

He added that they are concerned that if someone like Laurel

assumes the role of agriculture secretary, he may prioritize his business interests over the collective welfare of farmers

and fisherfolk, who are advocating for genuine reforms in agriculture and fisheries. — **With Mark Ernest Villeza**



LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE



NFA'S MANDATE

By Joel dela Torre

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. reminded the National Food Authority (NFA) during its 51st founding anniversary, the agency's mandate anchored on maintaining sufficient rice buffer stock sourced from Filipino farmers.

In a message delivered by Undersecretary Domingo Pangiban, President Marcos praised the local farm tillers for remaining steadfast even in time of emergencies and calamities.

"Even in the midst of chal-

lenges that grapples our agriculture sector, you have remained steadfast in maintaining a buffer stock of rice and palay, especially during times of emergencies and calamities," he said.

The NFA which is under the office of the Agriculture department celebrated its 51st founding anniversary in September 26.

Meanwhile, NFA Administrator Roderico Bioco urged the DA-NFA employees to celebrate their anniversary with hope and enthusiasm, emphasizing their commitment to rice buffering and ensuring food in the country.



PH shrimp, prawn production seen to grow further in 2023

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) is looking at the continued increase in shrimp and prawn production for 2023 because of investments in research and the adoption of new technologies and best practices.

Highlighting the industry's contribution to the national economy and food security, Senior Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban lauded the "remarkable achievement" of the shrimp and prawn growers amid the challenges posed by the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic in the past three years.

"Despite the difficulties brought on by Covid-19, the country ranked fourth in Southeast Asia and 10th in the world in shrimp and prawn production output in 2021," Panganiban said in his message read by Undersecretary for Fisheries Drusila Esther Bayate at the opening of 14th Philippine Shrimp Congress at the SMX Convention Center.

He noted that despite a slight decline in the production of tiger prawns, overall production reached 33,000 metric tons (MT) during the first half of the year, higher by about 1,000 MT than the harvest in the first six months of 2022.

"This early, we expect the industry to produce over 91,000 MT of shrimp and prawns by the end of the year, 4 percent more than the 87,700 MT it harvested in 2022," Panganiban said.

The total production in 2021 was

84,134 MT.

From its production operations alone in 2022, the industry contributed PHP27.63 million to the national economy.

Panganiban pointed out that the country's production of shrimps and prawns is "critically important not just because of its significance to domestic food security but also because of the Philippines' strong position in the global trade."

"This remarkable achievement provides a strong basis for progress in the coming years. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. intends to build on this foundation and has established a national goal of ensuring the industry's competitive pre-eminence in the administration's support for the shrimp industry road map," he added.

Panganiban said the Philippines continues to seek trade opportunities for the industry in such countries as the United States and China and those in Western Europe.

In her keynote message, Senator Cynthia Villar, represented by her daughter House of Representatives Deputy Speaker Camille Villar, said the government should extend continuous efforts to organized aquaculture farmers, particularly in disease and water quality monitoring to prevent the spread of diseases and eventual economic losses. **PNA**



Helping the Marcos administration solve hunger in the Philippines

By LtGen ANTONIO G. PARLADE JR. (RET)

FOOD security is important to any nation. As an archipelago, the Philippines is endowed with abundant marine resources with two thirds of its territory composed of bodies of water. Its 36,289 kilometers coastline is host to 68 percent of its 110 million population. Unfortunately and ironically, they also comprise ¾ of the poorest and most marginalized sectors of Philippine society.

As a developing nation, the Philippines should be able to harness its marine resources in order to feed its people while creating employment opportunities. It can easily increase the average Filipino food intake, which is short of 300 calories daily, while lactating mothers will be able to avail themselves of the necessary docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) requirement from fish needed for the neurological development of their babies (Ravenholt, 1982). This can be done responsibly without destroying the marine ecosystem (Quinn, Kuzawa 2012).

But like many other economic issues, there are political underpinnings to this. The fishery industry is elite-controlled. Fishing magnates control deep-sea fishing while they also dominate the medium scale fishery industry. What is left to the poor fisherfolk are the municipal waters and littoral areas, which are laden with restrictions. As a result of this, majority of the illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing violations are committed by this sector. (I-FIT Assessment Report, 2022).

The agency in charge of the pro-

tection and management of the maritime domain, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), is a small bureau among nine other bureaus under the Department of Agriculture (DA). It has 3.8 percent of the Department's budget, which also runs eight attached agencies, eight attached corporations, and 16 regional field offices. As such, it is unable to provide the appropriate policy and support mechanisms to its constituents, much less prevent the occurrence of IUU fishing all over the country.

In 2014, the problem became apparent for the politicians, the media, and the citizens, when the Chinese started reclaiming four artificial islands from half-submerged features within the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone. By 2016, Chinese military bases were completed, which restricted the movement of Philippine Navy, Coast Guard, and the Filipino fishermen in the area. This brought more misery to Filipino fisherfolk, whose only means of livelihood is fishing.

The continuous aggressive posturing of the Chinese today presents

an opportunity to push this agenda with the attention it is causing in the national psyche. The convergence of problem, politics, and solution streams begs for a multiple streams approach. The situation is ripe for the nation to unite on several agendas: the promotion of responsible fishing in the WPS, strengthening Philippine resolve to protect what is ours, sustaining peace and stability using non-military approaches, and enhancing the capacity of fishermen to harness marine resources in order to spur the local economy.

This agenda requires a punctuated approach to the challenges posed by foreign actors by capacitating BFAR into a full-grown Department, separate from the DA. It can absorb many of the other bureaus and agencies under DA, in order to push for a more robust maritime economic policy and programs to address a brewing crisis in the WPS region through non-military and non-aggressive ways.

Pushing this agenda to the public consciousness through an outside initiative model is possible with the intervention of respectable lobby groups or NGOs that advocate environmental protection, alongside other groups, which shall advocate for poverty reduction and social justice among fisherfolks.

The USAID Fish Right Program has been a reliable partner for this initiative. It can advance consciousness on marine life preservation by expanding its mandate. This will put

pressure on policy makers to take action on the plight of poor fisherfolks, while addressing security concerns in the WPS.

In order to prevent failures in implementation, incremental changes may be necessary so as not to disrupt local governance, particularly as the mandate shifts from the DA to the new Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. This incremental approach is also important in order not to attract undue attention from outside forces that are also claimant states.

The government can draw lessons from and even copy Vietnam Strategy 2020. The Vietnam model embarked on "sustainable and effective exploitation of sources of seafood in association with national defense, security, and protection of sea environment." (Vietnam Socio-economic Development Strategy 2011-2020). The program surpassed its target to harness 50 percent of their GDP from their marine economy in less than five years. It ranked 7th in the world in terms of fish production with a total of 8.2 billion metric tons a year, as against the Philippines' 5 billion metric tons, which kept it in 10th place in 2019 (FAO Fishery and Aquaculture Information and Statistics Service, 2011).

To ensure an effective policy, a third party may be tapped to conduct process evaluation, cost-benefit evaluation, and eventually an impact evaluation.

Date: OCT. 03, 2023 Page: 23



LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

USDA FORECASTS DECLINE IN OUTPUT

PH LIKELY TO IMPORT MORE SUGAR

By **Jordeene B. Lagare**
@jordeenelagare

The El Niño phenomenon may curb the Philippines' sugar production and thus prompt more importation of this commodity despite lofty prices this crop year, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) projected.

In a report, the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) estimated that the country's raw sugar production for marketing year 2024 that began in September would reach 1.8 million metric tons (MT), slightly higher than the sugar output of 1.79 million MT recorded by the agency for marketing year 2023.

The volume is not too far from the 1.85 million MT forecast of the **Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA)** for crop year 2023-2024.

"Declining sugarcane planting areas and weather disturbances including the ongoing El Niño are expected to affect sugar production," the USDA-FAS report said.

The SRA earlier said local production might increase or decrease by 10 to 15 percent depending on the severity of the El Niño phenomenon.

The foreign agency also attributed the expected decline to the closure of Central Azu-

carera Don Pedro Inc. (CADP) sugar mill in Batangas, which reduced areas for planting sugarcane now estimated at 385,000 hectares.

"Despite the loss of area in Luzon, expansion in sugarcane areas in Mindanao will partly compensate for the sugarcane farms covered by CADP, about 10,500 hectares," the USDA-FAS said.

"The prevailing high prices will continue to encourage farmers to plant sugarcane instead of shifting to other crops like corn, cassava and banana. Sugarcane planting normally starts in October and ends in May. Some farmers in Batangas continue to plant sugarcane to supply other sugar mill and bioethanol producers," it added.

The USDA-FAS maintained its outlook on refined sugar imports at 240,000 MT, which already included some 150,000 MT authorized by President Marcos previously to stabilize prices and build inventory.

The Philippines, however, is not anticipated to export sugar as the SRA allocated the entire sugar output to the domestic market to stabilize supply.

The USDA-FAS previously said that limited exports could happen in the current market-

ing year with the high carryover stocks due to importation.

Last month, SRA Administrator Pablo Luis Azcona said the agency was soliciting inputs from stakeholders to assess if the industry can finally export sugar to the United States this time.

For this crop year, the SRA will continue periodic assessment to adjust percentage allocation and distribution, as needed.

The Philippines last delivered sugar to the US in crop year 2020-2021, shipping out 112,008 MT of raw sugar then.

Even so, the US Trade Representative kept the country's raw cane sugar export quota at 145,235 metric tons raw value for fiscal year 2024.

At the same time, the USDA-FAS is not expecting the government to authorize raw sugar importation to protect local producers.

The United States has an agreement with the World Trade Organization to import at lower tariffs a certain volume of sugar from countries including the Philippines.

Meanwhile, the country's demand for sugar is unchanged at 2.2 million MT as high prices discourage increases in consumption. **INQ**



LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

PHL raw sugar output forecast downgraded by USDA

THE US Department of Agriculture (USDA) downgraded its annual raw sugar forecast for the Philippines, citing El Niño and the decline in the area planted to sugarcane.

According to a report by the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), raw sugar output is now estimated at 1.8 million metric tons for marketing year 2024, a downgrade of 5.3% from initial estimates.

The USDA's marketing year runs from September to August, corresponding with the sugar industry's own crop year.

The FAS forecast is less than the estimate reported by the **Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA)** in Sugar Order No. 1.

The SRA said raw sugar output could reach 1.85 million metric tons, but will vary depending on the severity of the ongoing El Niño.

Official projections by the government weather service put the peak of the El Niño at late 2023 to early 2024.

"The El Niño phenomenon increases the likelihood of below-normal rainfall and reduced yields," the FAS said.

The FAS also projected that land planted to sugarcane will decline slightly to 385,000 hectares from the initial forecast of 390,000 hectares. It said sugar acreage declined in Batangas after the closure of Central Azucarera Don Pedro.

"Despite the loss of area in Luzon, expansion in sugarcane areas in Mindanao will partly compensate... about 10,500 hectares," it said.

The FAS assumes no imports of raw sugar during the remainder of the year "as the government seeks to protect local producers." Shipments of refined sugar are expected to hit 240,000 MT.

Forecast demand for raw sugar was unchanged for the market year at 2.2 million MT.

"The high prices of sugar and sugar-using products will continue to discourage increases in consumption," it said. — **Adrian H. Halili**



LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Rice imports drop in Sept. as harvest starts

THE PHILIPPINES imported 2.49 million metric tons (MT) of rice in the year to date as of Sept. 21, down 18.1% from a year earlier, the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) said, with analysts noting that shipments slowed towards the end of the period with the onset of the domestic harvest.

The BPI added that rice imports in September, as of Sept. 21, declined 32.2% year on year to 178,164.12 MT.

On a month-on-month basis, rice shipments declined 43% in August.

Michael L. Ricafort, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. chief economist, said that the drop in imports during the period was mainly due to the onset of the domestic rice harvest, which added to the available supply.

"The government would like to prioritize the purchase of palay (unmilled rice) from farmers," Mr. Ricafort said in a Viber message.

Roehl M. Briones, a senior research fellow from the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, said

higher international rice prices also affected imports in September.

"Once the price drops imports will return to trend," Mr. Briones said in a Viber message.

Mr. Ricafort added that restrictions imposed by rice exporting countries led to the decline of shipments into the Philippines.

India and Vietnam have announced plans to reduce rice exports to shore up local supply.

India announced in July an immediate ban on exports of non-basmati white rice to ensure domestic availability of the commodity.

Vietnam also announced plans to reduce rice exports to four million tons a year by 2030.

In the year to date, Vietnam remained the Philippines' top source of rice, shipping 2.24 million MT or 89.96% of Philippine imports for the period.

Thailand and Myanmar shipped 116,106.17 MT and 95,847 MT, respectively. —

Adrian H. Halili

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link
<<http://rb.gy/yjsov>>



LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Nueva Vizcaya's micro rice retailers get subsidy

BAYOMBONG: The provincial government of Nueva Vizcaya has distributed P2.19 million in cash subsidy to 146 micro rice retailers who were affected in adherence to Executive Order (EO) 39.

The EO was signed by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. last month to place a price cap on rice in an effort to ease off the increasing price of the staple caused by hoarding and manipulation.

Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Jose Gambito said the micro rice retailers from 11 out of the 15 municipalities in the province received P15,000 each during the second batch of economic relief subsidy distribution in this town.

Gambito said this is a collaborative effort of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Philippine National Police (PNP), the National Food Authority (NFA) and the provincial government of Nueva Vizcaya.

Marietta Salviejo, DTI Nueva Vizcaya provincial director, said the distribution of cash aid was conducted under DSWD's Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) in collaboration with national and local governments.

She also encouraged the beneficiaries "to make the most out of the assistance given to them to help their businesses thrive."

She added that the list of beneficiaries was meticulously compiled from submissions made by business permit and licensing offices in the province.

"We have thoroughly verified the list together with the DSWD to ensure that those receiving assistance were genuinely affected by the compliance requirements of EO 39," Salviejo said.

Meanwhile, Gambito also pledged the provincial government's support and assistance "to ensure the success of this initiative" saying that there are various programs and interventions the provincial government has been implementing for the agricultural sector of the province. **LEANDER C. DOMINGO**



LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Rice imports down 43% as of Sept. 21

RICE imports were markedly lower as of the third week of September from a month earlier, Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) data showed.

As of September 21, inbound shipments of the staple totaled 178,164.12 metric tons (MT), lower by 43.01 percent from August's 312,642.17 MT.

The rice imports were also lower by 32.17 percent from the recorded 262,701.24 MT a year earlier.

Rice imports peaked in April at 513,425.17 MT.

Year-to-date, inbound shipments hit 2.49 million MT, lower by 17.94 percent from 3.03 million MT posted in January-September last year.

Vietnam remained the country's top source of rice, having shipped 2.23 million MT and accounting for 89.73 percent of total imports.

Thailand followed with 116,106.17 MT, Myanmar with 95,847 MT, and Pakistan with 25,545.21 MT.

India, which announced an export ban on their non-basmati white rice in July, supplied the

➤ **Down B2**

■ DOWN FROM B1

Rice imports

country with 13,493.39 MT.

The remaining 4,570.72 MT came from Cambodia, China,

Japan, Italy and Spain.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. chief economist Michael Ricafort attributed the decline in imports to the early harvest season from mid-September to October 2023, which led to higher palay or unmilled rice supplies.

"[T]he government, as a matter of policy, would like to prioritize the purchase of local palay from local farmers to prevent rice imports from bringing down the farmgate price paid to farmers that reduces the latter's income," he noted.

Higher world prices "somewhat reduced demand" for imports.

"Measures by some rice exporting countries to restrict or reduce rice exports could have partly led to the reduction in rice imports by the Philippines," Ricafort said.

JANINE ALEXIS MIGUEL



LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

A fruitful move: Opening the world market to our farmers

Our fruits are known the world over — we have the sweetest mangoes, the juiciest pineapples, and the plumpest pomelos. Now, we proudly add avocados to that list as an initial shipment of 3,040 boxes of fresh Hass avocados embarked on a journey from our shores to South Korea last Sept. 30, 2023.

As reported by the **Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI)**, the first shipment set sail from KTC Port Tibungco in Davao City and is expected to reach Pyongtaek Port, South Korea, on Oct. 8. The estimated value of the products is US\$48,433 or approximately ₱2.7 million.

This development signals an important step forward, as expanded market access not only broadens the consumer base for Filipino fruit producers but also affords them the opportunity to scale up their operations. It's a win-win solution to the perennial challenge of identifying new local markets, which had unfortunately led to some fruit produce being thrown away or left to rot.

It is worth noting that earlier this year, during the President's state visit to China, he was able to open the country's door for more local fruit exports. The President witnessed the signing between the Department of Agriculture (DA) and China's General Administration of Customs on a protocol of phytosanitary requirements for the export of fresh durians. With this, an estimated US\$ 2.09 billion in purchase intentions for Philippine fruit exports was secured by the administration, which also covers coconuts and bananas, among others.

According to trade data, fresh fruits, including Cavendish bananas, have been the top drivers for Philippine agricultural exports to China.

In a related development, the Philippine Em-

bassy in Australia issued a statement in early September regarding the arrival of the first batch of fresh Philippine mango shipment. It said that the initial shipment of the most popular mango variety, Carabao, were "harvested from the local farms in Malalag, Digos, Bansalan, and Magsaysay municipalities in Davao del Sur."

"The entry of fresh Philippine mangoes into Australia marks a significant milestone in our bilateral trade. With the elevation of relations to a strategic partnership, the Philippines looks forward to building further trade with Australia. The time has come for our Aussie friends to enjoy our much beloved fruit in the Philippines," said Ma. Hellen De La Vega, Philippine Ambassador to Australia.

As we embark on this new era of global fruit trade, we must be vigilant in addressing any obstacles that may arise. For years, several agencies have identified supply-side constraints as our farmers have struggled to meet the required demand. It is now imperative for the government to look into providing the best technology, upskilling farmers, or making available storage facilities and processing equipment. These measures will allow local fruit producers to be competitive on the world stage. After all, bilateral agreements or agreement signings are useless if we fail to uphold our end of the bargain.

The President has consistently reiterated that the agricultural sector is at the forefront of the post-pandemic economic recovery strategy. So let's put funds and all our efforts where it matters the most, as this will have a tremendous impact especially in the countryside.

This time, let our homegrown fruits pave the way for a fruitful journey toward economic resiliency.



Sugar output projection lowered to 1.8 MMT

BY JED MACAPAGAL

THE United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has lowered its projected raw sugar production in the Philippines for the current crop year by 5 percent to 1.8 million metric tons (MT) from an earlier forecast of 1.9 million MT.

The report dated September 29 said the adjusted projection for August 2023 to September 2024 was due to declining areas planted to sugarcane and weather disturbances, including the effects of the ongoing El Niño phenomenon.

The projection of the USDA

is slightly lower than that of the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) of 1.85 million MT but is a bit higher than the actual production of 1.79 million MT in the previous crop year.

The report attributed the reduced projected local raw sugar production to the closure of Central Azucarera Don Pedro (CADP) in Batangas and the forecast made by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services that El Niño will persist from November to January, which is normally within the dry season in Negros island.

The SRA earlier hinted the possibility of a production drop of at least 10 to 15 percent, depending on the severity of El Niño that increases the likelihood of below-normal rainfall and reduced yields.

The USDA also estimates sugarcane area for the current crop year to be at 385,000 hectares (ha), 1.3 percent lower than the original estimate of 390,000 ha due to loss of area in Batangas supplying CADP.

However, the report said despite the loss of area in Luzon, expansion in sugarcane areas in Mindanao will partly make up for

the sugarcane farms covered by CADP.

The agency added the prevailing high prices will continue to encourage farmers to plant sugarcane instead of shifting to other crops like, corn, cassava and banana.

The report also said the Philippines is expected to import up to 240,00 MT of refined sugar to stabilize consumer prices and provide two months of buffer stocks as demand for sugar is seen to remain at 2.2 million MT.

Based on the Department

See SUGAR > Page A2

SUGAR

of Agriculture's monitoring of public markets in the National Capital Region, prevailing retail price as of Friday ranged from P84 to P110 per kg for refined sugar, P80 to P95 per kg for washed sugar and P75 to P95 per kg for brown sugar.

SRA millsite monitoring also

showed that composite price of raw sugar as of April 9 was 3,080.10 per 50 kg bag.

SRA millsite monitoring showed composite price of raw sugar as of July 2 before milling operations were terminated was at P3,000 per 50 kg bag.



Phl to import 240k MT of refined sugar

By DANESSA RIVERA

The Philippines may see lower raw sugar production this crop year, necessitating the importation of 240,000 metric tons (MT) of refined sugar to fill in the supply gap and to help maintain stable retail prices of the sweetener, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In its sugar semi-annual report, the USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) has lowered its raw sugar production forecast by 100,000 MT to 1.8 million MT this crop year beginning September.

The projection is below the Sugar Regulatory Administration's (SRA) forecast of 1.85 million MT.

Declining sugarcane planting areas and the impact of weather disturbances including the El Niño phenomenon were the main factors for the lower forecast.

"The reduction was attributed to the closure of one sugar mill, Central Azucarera Don Pedro (CADP) in Batangas (Luzon), due to financial challenges. In addition, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services (PAGASA) projected El Niño to persist from November to January, which is normally within the dry season in Negros (a major producing island)," the USDA-FAS said.

Following the loss of areas in Batangas, the agency estimates sugarcane area at 385,000 hectares (ha), slightly below the USDA official estimate of 390,000 hectares.

"Despite the loss of area in Luzon, expansion in sugarcane areas in Mindanao will partly compensate for the sugarcane farms covered by CADP, about 10,500 hectares," it said.

Meanwhile, the El Niño phenomenon increases the likelihood of below-normal rainfall and reduced yields.

"SRA considers a produc-

tion drop of at least 10 to 15 percent, depending on the severity of El Niño," the US agency said.

With lower production and demand at 2.2 million MT, the USDA-FAS forecasts refined sugar imports to reach 240,000 MT to stabilize consumer prices and provide two months of buffer stocks.

This projection includes the 150,000 MT refined imports approved by President Marcos.

Required to be in the country by Sept. 15, this import program was intended to ensure sufficient actual supply for domestic consumption and provide a two-month buffer stock.

In terms of prices, the USDA-FAS expects millsite prices may not reach the high levels experienced in the previous year amid the huge stock balance of sugar available.

"At the end of the milling season, however, millsite prices remain high, averaging P3,000 per 50-kilogram bag (LKG) in July. Prices normally increase toward the end of the milling season (from June to August) as sugarcane supply becomes low," it said.

Such price levels will continue to encourage farmers to plant sugarcane instead of shifting to other crops like corn, cassava, and banana, the US agency said.

Retail prices, on the other hand, stabilized since January but have not gone down to 2011 prices. At one point, refined sugar reached a high of P106 per kilo.

The government tried to resolve the sky-high price issue through importation under SO6 and SO7.

"To date, the SO6 and SO7 have failed to address the high retail prices affecting consumers and food manufacturers," the USDA-FAS said.

Based on the monitoring of the Department of Agriculture as of yesterday, the retail price

of refined sugar was at P84-110 per kilo, washed sugar at P80-95 a kilo, and raw sugar at P75-95 per kilo.

Date: OCT. 03, 2023 Page: 6



LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

EYES WIDE OPEN

IRIS GONZALES

Oh my gulay! atbp.

Inflation numbers don't quite capture the pain that many Filipinos are feeling now, the throbbing kind that doesn't go away, like a thorn on the side of one's body which worsens even with the slightest movement.

This is how skyrocketing prices of food and other commodities are hurting Filipinos, especially some 20 million living below the poverty line; worse for those surviving on roughly two dollars a day. Even without the high prices, some families can hardly make ends meet.

Filipinos, no doubt, are desperate for help. Prices of vegetables have gone up and so did prices of chicken, pork, fish and everything else. Transport costs, too.

You don't have to take my word for it, just check your neighborhood grocery or *talipapa* to check the retail prices of vegetables.

Eggplant is now at P120 per kilo from P60 months ago; potatoes, P120 from P80, Baguio pechay, P100 from P60; *ampalaya*, P120 from P80; tomatoes at P85 from P40; carrots, P220 from P140 and cauliflower P320 from P180.

This is based on our own household's monitoring from August, using prices from the average neighborhood supermarket.

The latest price monitoring of the Department of Agriculture or from the period Sept. 18 to 22 also showed an increase, with eggplant now at P139.02 per kilo from P103.22 per kilo in August; potatoes, P156 from P133; Baguio pechay at P132 from P141; tomato prices are at P129.17 from P181.

Whole chicken is at P189.95 from P185, while pork liempo is at P343 which, though unchanged from the previous month, is still pricey, DA's monitoring also showed.

Some of these commodities have seen their prices double and are clearly hurting Filipinos and their families.

It's not just a small population who are hurting. The middle class, too – or those whose 90 percent of monthly income is spent on necessities – are also feeling the pinch, not to mention the marginalized sectors including single parents, breadwinners of solo-income households and senior citizens.

I repeat, Filipinos are desperate for help.

Inflation battle

Clearly, the inflation battle isn't over but it can't be just the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas who slays inflation. Our authorities need to fix the supply problems and help farmers increase their productivity.

Speaking of agriculture, do we finally have a full time agriculture secretary?

Economists said it's becoming an increasingly difficult battle, with inflation proving to be a stub-



born one, made worse by global supply challenges, including India's export ban.

In a commentary titled "The Philippines: The Food and Fuel Problem Re-emerges," ANZ Research said it raised its inflation forecasts to six percent from 5.3 percent for this year and to 3.5 percent from three percent for next year.

"In short, the Philippines' inflation battle is not yet over," ANZ chief economist Sanjay Mathur and economist Debalika Sarkar said (*The STAR*, Sept. 12).

In the report, the authors said they see scope for inflation to rise in the near term amid the risk that food and energy prices feed through to other components of the consumer price index (CPI) basket.

Inflation averaged 6.6 percent and remained above the BSP target range for the eight-month period after quickening to 5.3 percent in August from 4.7 percent in July.

September inflation is expected to be higher than the August number, with the report set to be released this Friday.

El Niño

Likewise, in *The STAR*'s Sept. 12 report, Moody's Analytics said the El Niño weather pattern may further hinder agricultural crops and keep prices of food elevated for longer.

Rice is a problem, Moody's Analytics said, "as prices have soared due to domestic challenges and India's ban on the export of non-basmati white rice. The Philippines is one of the world's largest importers of rice."

"Beyond bad weather, the government has blamed price manipulation by industry participants for contributing to higher food prices," Moody's Analytics said as quoted in *The STAR* report.

But Moody's Analytics expects BSP to keep rates steady for the rest of the year.

"Unless inflation across food and energy proves to be stickier than expected, the central bank is likely to hold rates steady for the rest of the year and cut rates from the first quarter of 2024," it added.

"For now, we maintain the view that the BSP will hold the policy rate at 6.25 percent and that a cut is unlikely even in 2024. Our earlier view was the BSP would be able to start cutting the policy rate from the second quarter of 2024," ANZ also said.

The situation is turning out to be a looming crisis for the Marcos administration.

Prices remain high because of high production costs, skyrocketing fuel costs and weather disturbances.

What can be done? First of all, we need strong leadership at the DA – a heavyweight with technical skills who could make things work and come up with a better idea to increase farmers' productivity, including applying science and technology.

Farmers need subsidies too and more farm-to-market roads, storage for their produce; access to market and many more.

We don't have enough of these for now and all we can say is oh my *gulay*, prices are still so high!

Email: eyesgonzales@gmail.com. Follow her on Twitter @eyesgonzales. Column archives at EyesWideOpen on Facebook.



DA urges Calabarzon youth to pursue agriculture career

LIPA CITY, Batangas – The Department of Agriculture-Calabarzon (DA-4A) has launched an information campaign to actively recruit the region's youth to pursue careers in agriculture so they can contribute to the country's food management cycle and food security.

This is the agency's response to the advancing age of Filipino farmers, whose average age is currently 57 years, and who are expected to retire soon.

Radel Llagas, chief of the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section, told the Philippine News Agency (PNA) on Sunday that although there is an increase in food demand due to the rapid growth of population, fewer people are getting involved in food production.

"There is a continuing decline in the enrollment in agricultural courses and this poses a serious threat to agricultural development and more importantly, food security," he said.

Llagas said DA-4A has launched the "Information Caravan on Agriculture for the Youth" to encourage young people in the five-province region to pursue studies in agriculture and related fields.

He disclosed that some 200 students from Malvar Senior High School participated in the information caravan's Batangas leg on Thursday.

The lectures focused on the overall meaning and importance of agriculture, its progression over time, and the paths that students can take in college, Llagas explained.

Sharing their insights during the learning session were key DA officials, including Joy Priol of Lipa Agricultural Research and Experiment Station, Dennis Bihis of the Quezon Agricultural Research and Experiment Station and Hazel Reyes of the research division.

Malvar Senior High School princi-

pal Rosalie Liwanag said it was the perfect timing since graduation is fast approaching.

"It is a big step for their teachers to provide a wider option for college," he added.

The DA is also bringing its message to elementary students, by way of activities such as the Regional On-the-Spot Poster Making contest and the upcoming National Rice Awareness Month in November, and the "Be RICEponsible" infocaravan.

The Young Farmers Challenge also offers capital to aspiring "agripreneurs" and scholarship programs for the youth to pursue a baccalaureate course related to agriculture. PNA

Date: 03 OCT 2023 Page: 2



LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Modernize farming, isinusulong ni Barbers

Hinihiyay ng isang mambabatas mula sa Mindanao ang pamahalaan na pagkalooban ang mga magsasaka ng mga modernong makinaryang pang-agrikultura, bilang bahagi ng pagsusumikap nito na mapataas pa ang produksiyon ng bigas sa bansa.

Sinabi ni Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers na ang agricultural machinery, o kilala sa tawag na agricultural tech, ay mahalagang sandata para mapaganda pa ang agricultural production.

"It helps farmers to grow more crops in less time and with greater efficiency. It can include anything from tractors and harvesters to animal feed mixers or field-wide weed removers," aniya.

Binigyang-diin ni Barbers, na nag-a-advocate

ngayon ng agricultural modernization, ang agarang pangangailangan sa pag-mechanize ng Philippine agriculture upang makamit ang food sufficiency at security.

"Ang layunin ng Pangulong BBM na food sufficiency sa darating na mga taon ay layunin ko rin, kaya 100-percent akong suportado sa mga programang pang-agrikultura ng ating Chief Executive," sabi pa ni Barbers.

Nagpahayag din siya ng kumpiyansa na ang pamahalaan, sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni Pang. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., ay magkakaloob ng mga modernong farm machinery sa mga magsasaka, sa pamamagitan ng tulong at suporta ng **Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech)**.

Aniya, ang technological advancements ay magkakaloob sa mga magsasaka ng kapangyarihan upang higit pang mas epektibo at mas episyenteng malinang ang kanilang mga lupa.

Itinutulak din ni Barbers na gawing moderno ang agricultural production sa bansa, at sinabing ang subsistence farming ay pinalitan ng mekanisasyon upang mapataas ang produktibidad at ani ng pananim.

Sinabi pa niya na maraming magsasaka ang nakakapagprodyus lamang ng sapat na pagkain para sa kanilang sariling pagkain at kanilang pamilya at ang mekanisasyon ang siyang magbibigay-daan sa mga commercial farmers upang makapag-produce ng mas maraming food profit. (Joy Cantos)

Date: 03 OCT 2023 Page: A7



LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Iloilo eyes 'artificial insemination' for hogs

ILOILO: The provincial government here is eyeing to recover its losses from the African swine fever (ASF)-hit industry through "artificial insemination."

"We are starting a program with our Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) that in our recovery, we will have an artificial insemination program," said Iloilo Gov. Arthur Defensor Jr.

Since the only way to prevent the outbreak of ASF is to isolate and cull affected or exposed swine herds, Defensor stressed that the province can only combat the disease through "natural selection."

"That is the only way we can recover. ASF will not leave us since there is no treatment or vaccine available for it," the governor said.

The province is currently asking the endorsement from the Department of Agriculture that the province has the capability to breed hogs through artificial insemination.

"Artificial insemination is a program that we want to develop and validate so that we can recover our losses from ASF and regain the sufficiency of our hog output," Defensor said.

As of September this year, the province's hog inventory has dropped

to 72.27 percent or 76,917 heads compared to 277,421 heads during the same period last year.

With 27 of the 43 towns affected by ASF, the province's hog inventory is only 33.75 percent sufficient, which the governor described as "no longer sufficient."

Defensor said the artificial insemination program will be initially dispersed to qualified farmers or swine herds that survived or remained unaffected by ASF.

Data from the PVO showed that 28 backyard farmers in the province have passed the validation process for the ASF recovery program, including 19 in New Lucena town, eight in Barotac Viejo, and one in Sta. Barbara. Additionally, 104 farmers from the town of Ajuy are currently undergoing validation.

The province detected its first case of ASF in October last year and it temporarily halted the delivery of hogs to other provinces in March 2023.

Since January this year, a total of 13,484 pigs have been shipped into the province from the provinces of Aklan, Antique, Guimaras, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental and Oriental Mindoro.

RJAY ZURIAGA CASTOR

Date: 03 OCT 2023 Page: 44



LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

PHL may import more refined sugar for current crop year—USDA report

By JASPER EMMANUEL Y. ARCALAS
@jearcalas

THE Philippines may need to import more refined sugar in the current crop year, as previous rounds have been “unsuccessful” in pulling down retail prices of the sweetener, an international agency said.

The United States Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agricultural Service in Manila (USDA-FAS Manila) said the Philippines’s refined sugar imports in crop year 2023-2024 would reach 257,000 metric tons (MT).

The volume, the USDA-FAS Manila explained, already includes the 150,000 MT authorized volume under Sugar Order (SO) 7 of crop year 2022-2023.

This means that the Philippines may allow the entry of an additional 90,000 MT in the current crop year, which would end on August 31 of next year.

Meanwhile, the USDA-FAS Manila does not see the Philippines importing a single volume of raw sugar in the current crop year as the state “seeks to protect local producers.”

“Post sees no raw sugar importation as the Philippines government seeks to protect local producers but forecasts refined sugar imports of 240,00 MT [257,000 MT raw equivalent] to stabilize consumer prices and provide two months of buffer stocks,” the USDA-FAS Manila said in its latest Global Agricultural Information Network (Gain) report published recently.

“This includes the 150,000 MT refined imports approved by President Marcos as stated in SO7,” it added.

The USDA-FAS Manila projected the country’s raw sugar imports to remain flat at 1.8 million MT in the crop year 2023-2024.

The international agency’s projection is 50,000 MT lower than the 1.85 MMT forecast

of the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA).

The USDA-FAS Manila explained that the “prevailing” high sugar prices would drive planters to expand their production, especially those in Mindanao, which would offset the anticipated supply loss in Batangas caused by the shutdown of the Central Azucarera Don Pedro (CADP) mill.

“Post estimates MY 2024 sugarcane area at 385,000 hectares [ha], slightly below the USDA Official estimate of 390,000 due to loss of area in Batangas supplying CADP,” it said.

“Despite the loss of area in Luzon, expansion in sugarcane areas in Mindanao will partly compensate for the sugarcane farms covered by CADP, about 10,500 hectares,” it added.

However, the USDA-FAS Manila pointed out that refined sugar prices at the wholesale and retail levels remained elevated due to anemic domestic sugar output despite the

influx of imported stocks.

Citing its computations, USDA-FAS Manila said imported refined sugar from Asean can be sold between P60 per kilogram to P65 per kilogram.

“Consumers wait to see prices decline, but prices continue to be more than P100/kg [\$1.76/kg] since January 2023 despite high inventory. Prices had been stable since January but have not gone down to previous levels, not even closer to 2021 prices,” it said.

“Wholesale and retail prices of refined sugar remain elevated despite the country having ample refined sugar stocks. To date, the SO6 and SO7 have failed to address the high retail prices affecting consumers and food manufacturers,” it added.

The Gain report indicated the refined sugar prices in Metro Manila remained above the P100 per kilogram level in August for the tenth consecutive month.

“Consumers continue to wait for lower prices, which have doubled from just over a year ago. Importation brought buffer stocks to a comfortable level until the end of MY 2023 but failed to affect the high retail prices of refined sugar,” it said.



LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

BSP starts live report submission of agri, rural dev't financing

By LEE C. CHIPONGIAN

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has started the quarterly live submission of banks' reporting of the mandatory agriculture, fisheries and rural development (AFRD) financing from Sept. 30 until Dec. 31, 2023.

In a memo (Memorandum No. M-2023-028) signed by BSP Assistant Governor Lynn I. Javier on Sept. 28, the central bank reminded all banks concerned of the guidelines on the submission of the AFRD report within the live period and the subsequent quarterly report.

These live submissions are via the application programming interface (API) and the integral financial supervision system (IFSS).

Last November, the BSP approved the circular requiring all banks to allocate 25 percent of their total loanable funds for AFRD financing under Republic Act No. 11901 or

"The Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development Financing Enhancement Act of 2022".

The 25 percent requirement for AFRD financing will be mandated for 10 years. However, for banks that have just been established, they will be exempted from the required allocation for a period of five years. By BSP definition, newly-created banks are local or foreign banks whose first five years of operation ended on Aug. 18, 2022.

AFRD financing are loans and investments for productivity and intended to "increase (the) income of an agricultural and fisheries household, thereby promoting agricultural sector productivity and competitiveness, as well as sustainable development of rural communities."

Before RA 11901, banks are mandated to set aside 10 percent of their lending portfolio for agrarian reform beneficiaries and 15 percent for agricultural activities.

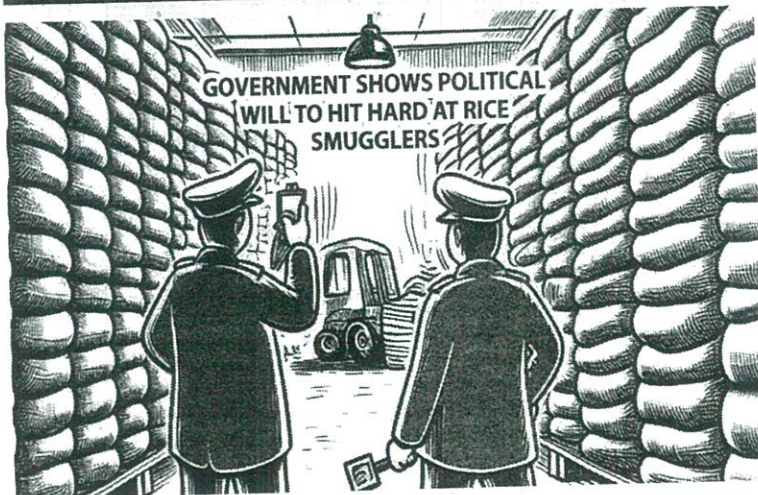
Under the new law, banks are pro-

vided with "greater flexibility" in allocating the combined 25 percent mandatory credit quota to a range of borrowers in the agriculture, fisheries, and agrarian reform sectors.

Based on the BSP circular, banks may comply with the mandatory credit requirement through the following modes: actual extension of loans to rural community beneficiaries -- gross of allowance for credit losses -- for purposes of financing AFRD activities; purchase of eligible loans; and purchase of eligible securities gross of allowance for credit losses but net of unamortized premium or discount.

The circular allowed consolidated compliance with the AFRD mandatory allocation but subsidiary banks should be directly or indirectly majority owned by the parent bank.

Banks that have failed to comply or under-complied with the required AFRD financing will be penalized with an annual monetary charge of 0.5 percent to be computed on a quarterly basis.



EDITORIAL

Rice smugglers

WITH the filing of charges before the Department of Justice (DOJ) against suspected rice smugglers, the government has demonstrated its determination to go after erring traders.

In the view of various quarters, including the country's beleaguered consumers, it is likewise ample proof that the administration of President Marcos "is sensitive to public opinion."

In a report last Sunday, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said the Bureau of Customs (BOC) has filed charges of economic sabotage against the three rice smugglers.

The charges stemmed from the inspection of four Bulacan warehouses conducted by BOC operatives on August 24.

In the said inspections, the government operatives, armed with a letter of authority issued by the BOC commissioner, found 200,000 sacks of imported rice in the said four warehouses.

The rigid inspection of warehouses in various parts of the Philippines is in line with the directive of President Marcos to wipe out hoarding and illegal importation of rice, the Filipinos' staple food.

According to the Chief Executive, smugglers and hoarders are behind the price manipulation schemes that are driving up the price of rice in various parts of the country.

"Ang bukbok na lubos na sumisira sa balanse ng suplay at presyo ng bigas... (ay) ang hoarding at smuggling, at price manipulation na ginagawa ng mga mapagsamantalang negosyante," he said.

Certainly, the government needs a large dose of political will to hit hard at unscrupulous Filipinos, particularly heartless traders, who continue to victimize the people.

The authorities must bend to the will of the people.



ASF sumirit, state of calamity idineklara sa Ilocos Norte

IDINEKLARA ang state of calamity sa isang lungsod sa Ilocos Sur dahil sa pagkalat ng African Swine Fever (ASF) sa 22 barangay dito.

Inaprubahan ng konseho ng Candon City ang Resolution Number 353-2023 na naglalagay sa lungsod sa ilalim ng state of calamity matapos na maapektuhan na rin ng nasabing virus ang mga alagang baboy sa 22 mula sa kabuuang 44 na barangay sa siyudad.

"The declaration of a state of calamity in the city will afford the city government of Candon to use an appropriate part of its Quick Response Fund to curb the spread of ASF and provide assistance to the affected hog raisers within the city," ani Candon City Mayor Eric D. Singson.

Noong Linggo, nilagdaan ng alkalde ang Executive Order (EO) number 60, series of 2023, na nagpapatibay ng 15-day lockdown

para sa transport, hauling, slaughtering at pagbebenta ng mga baboy at mga pork-product mula Oktubre 2 hanggang 17 para maawat ang pagkalat ng virus sa mga hayop.

"The ASF has an imminent threat to the local hog industry operating in the City of Candon, thus, greatly affecting the supply of live hogs, pork meat, and pork-by-products even for local and daily consumption," ani Singson. (Allan Bergonia)



3 RICE IMPORTER SABIT SA ECONOMIC SABOTAGE

Nagsampa ang Bureau of Customs (BOC) ng apat na reklamong kriminal laban sa tatlong mangangalakal ng bigas noong Setyembre 29, 2023, kasunod ng mga pagsalakay at imbestigasyon sa iba't ibang bodega sa Bulacan kamakailan.

Noong Agosto 2023, natuklasan ng mga ahente ng BOC ang labag sa batas na inangkat na mga sako ng bigas sa Bulacan, na nagkakahalaga ng mahigit P260 milyon.

Sa pagtatatag ng probable cause,

naglabas ang BOC ng mga warrant of seizure at detention laban sa mga subject warehouse para sa mga diumano'y paglabag sa batas, panuntunan, at regulasyon ng Customs.

Kasunod nito, noong Setyembre 29, 2023, ang BOC, sa pangunguna ng Action Team Against Smugglers, ay nagpresenta ng mga natuklasan nito at nagsampa ng kaukulang kasong kriminal sa Department of Justice (DOJ) laban sa mga may-ari at

nagmamay-ari ng mga bodega dahil sa umano'y rice smuggling.

Kasama sa apat na reklamong kriminal ang mga paglabag sa Republic Act No. 10863, na kilala rin bilang Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA), at ang R.A. 11203 o Rice Tariffication Law.

Sa kabuuang mga kasong isinampa, tatio ang may kinalaman sa large-scale smuggling na paglabag sa R.A. 10845, na kilala bilang Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act.

03 OCT 2023

Ngayong araw na ito ay is-share ko sa inyo ang MP Urban Rooftop Garden sa Mandaluyong City.

Bagamat maliit lang ang area ng taniman ay organized naman ang mga tanim, malulusog at magaganda ang iba't ibang uri ng halaman na pawang mga edible plants o nakakain.

Ayon kay Maica Joy Base, isang negosyante, nasa puso niya ang pagtatanim dahil iyon ang kinagisnan niya sa kanyang ama sa kanilang probinsiya.

Hanggang lumuwas ng Metro Manila ay dinala ni Maica ang pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman.

Sinabi ni Maica, noong una ay conventional farming ang kanyang pagtatanim hanggang makadalo siya sa training o seminar ni Cristina Ramirez Padua sa Caloocan City hinggil sa hydroponics method na estilo ng pagtatanim.

Gayunman, hindi rin niya totally iniwan ang pagtatanim sa lupa. Noong bisitahin ko ang kanyang rooftop garden kasama ang crew ng Masaganang Buhay TV Show, may mga tanim siyang ampalaya, pipino, kamatis, talong sa mga bote ng mineral water.

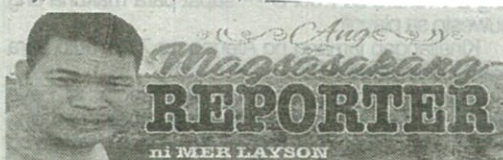
man.

"Kahit mga patapon na bagay tulad ng mga bote, sirang gulong ng sasakyan, sirang hallow blocks, paso, timba at sty-robox at iba pa ay maaari natin taniman," ani Maica.

Sa mga gustong matuto pa ng urban farming at nais mapalawak ang kaalaman sa kaugnay sa hydroponics, tawagan o i-text ninyo si Maica sa 0969-59532-01 o sa 09774839173 at kanyang online account na <https://www.facebook.com/maica.baseil>.

Sabihin lang po ninyo na nabasa ninyo sa **Pilipino Star Ngayon (PSN)** at napanood sa Youtube ng Magsasakang Reporter at Masaganang Buhay sa TV ang kanilang kuwento.

Sa darating na Sunday, October 15, 2023,

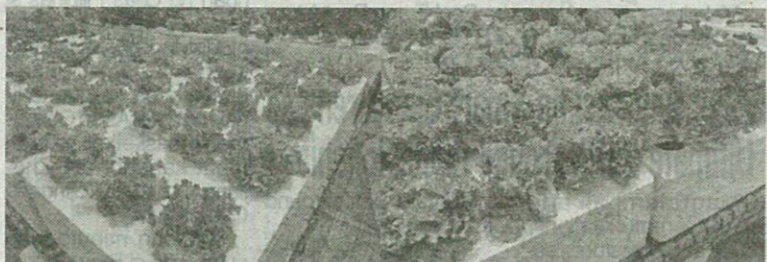


ganap na alas-7:00 ng umaga ay mapapanood ninyo sa OnePH, Cignal TV, Channel 1 ng TV-5 sa Masaganang Buhay TV at Radio show ng Magsasa-

Page: 11

king 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

Mandaluyong Rooftop Garden MP URBAN HYDROPONICS



Ang mga tanim sa MP Urban Hydroponics Rooftop Garden ni Ma'am Maica.

Mayroon din tanim na upland kangkong si Maica sa sirang gulong ng kotse na nilagyan niya ng lupa. May tanim din siyang kamalamansi, mulberry at iba pang mga nakakain na halaman.

Sinabi ni Maica, maraming benepisyo ang nakukuha niya sa pagtatanim. Pangunahin dito bilang stress reliever, nakakatipid siya, healthy pa ang kanyang kinakain at kumikita pa.

Ayon kay Maica, madalas ay hindi pa ready na i-harvest ang kanyang mga tanim, may bumibili na nito matapos niyang i-post sa kanyang social media account.

Gumagamit din ng Fermented Plant Juice (FPJ), Fermented Fruit Juice (FFJ), Oriental Herbal Nutrient at marami pang iba na natural na pamamaraan ng pagtatanim si Maica.

Si Maica ang siyang owner ng Heffa Creations. Bukod sa pagiging negosyante ay isine-share na rin niya sa iba ang kanyang nalalaman at karanasan sa pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng hala-

kang Reporter ang interview kay Maica at farm tour sa rooftop garden niya sa Mandaluyong City. Samantala, sa mga

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 at businesswoman na si Maica Joy Base.

nagnanais naman po na mapalalim pa ang kaalaman kaugnay sa natural at organic farming, panoorin po ninyo ang mga video tutorial ko sa aking Youtube Channel na **ANG MAGSASAKANG REPORTER** tungkol sa step by step na pagtatanim, pag-aalaga at sikreto ng pagkakaroon ng magandang tanim na halaman.

Para sa iba pang tips at sikreto sa pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman ay maaari po kayong manood at makinig ng a-

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 komentong, mag-text, huwag po tawag sa 09178675197. **STAY SAFE, HAPPY FARMING, GOD BLESS US ALL.**

Date: 03 OCT 2023 Page: 2



LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Economic sabotage kinaso vs rice smugglers

Nagsampa ang Bureau of Customs (BOC) ng apat na reklamong kriminal laban sa tatlong mangangalakal ng bigas noong Setyembre 29, 2023, kasunod ng mga pag-agaw at imbestigasyon kamakailan sa iba't ibang bodega sa Bulacan.

Noong Agosto 2023, natuklasan ng mga ahente ng BOC ang labag sa batas na inangkat na mga sako ng bigas sa Bulacan, na nagkakahalaga ng mahigit P260 milyon.

Sa pagtatatag ng probable cause, naglabas ang BOC ng mga warrant of seizure at detention laban sa mga subject warehouse para sa mga di-umano'y paglabag sa mga batas, panuntunan, at regulasyon ng Customs.

Kasunod nito, noong Setyembre 29, 2023, ang BOC, sa pangunguna ng Bureau's Action Team Against Smugglers, ay nagprisinta ng mga natuklasan nito at nagsampa ng kaukulang kasong kriminal sa Department of Justice (DOJ) laban sa mga may-ari at nagmamay-ari ng mga bodega dahil sa umano'y rice smuggling.

Kasama sa apat na reklamong kriminal ang mga paglabag sa Republic Act (R.A.) 10863, na kilala rin bilang Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA), at R.A. 11203 o ang Rice Tariffication Law.

Sa kabuuang mga kasong isinampa, tatlo ang nauukol sa large scale smuggling na lumalabag sa R.A. 10845, na kilala bilang Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act. (Danilo Garcia)



Wheat up, soybeans down

SINGAPORE- Chicago wheat climbed 1.7 percent on Monday as bargain-hunting supported prices after the market dropped more than 6 percent in the previous session to a three-year low on data pegging US wheat production above expectations.

Soybeans lost more ground, while corn ticked higher with US harvest likely to weigh on prices of both products.

"US wheat crop is now bigger than what was expected," a Singapore-based trader said. "It is likely to be bearish for the wheat market given the fact that Ukraine is able to export wheat through

sea route despite Russian attacks."

The most-active wheat contract on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) rose 1.7 percent to \$5.50-3/4 a bushel, after dropping on Friday to \$5.40 a bushel, its lowest since September 2020.

Soybeans gave up 0.5 percent to \$12.68-1/4 a bushel and corn added 0.5 percent to \$4.79 a bushel.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimated the nation's now completed wheat harvest at 1.812 billion bushels, 78 million bushels bigger than a previous estimate and significantly above the average analyst forecast of 1.729 billion bushels in a Reuters poll. **-Reuters**